THURSDAY
January 23, 2025

BENGALURU
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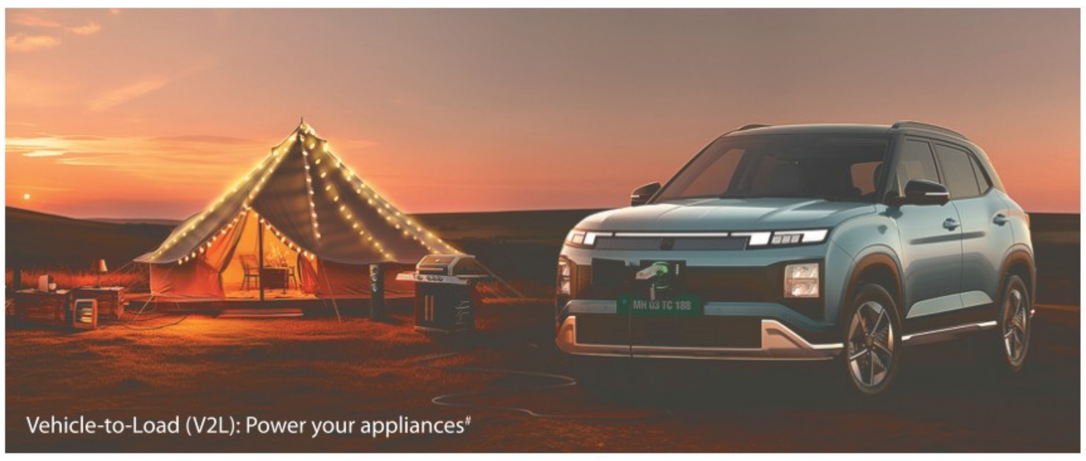
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'POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT'

Dallewal shifted to makeshift hospital

NEWS » PAGE 12

'HIGH AND ARBITRARY'

MPs slam user development fee charged by airports

NEWS » PAGE 13

NOT HOLDING BACK

Trump pledges to hit EU with tariffs

WORLD » PAGE 16

WEALTH IMBALANCE

The oligarchy we see today

Concentration of economic power in an unequal world

OPINION » PAGE 11

SIZZLING SHOW

Varun, Abhishek star for India in first T20I

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

Despite ban, flexes continue to spring up in city

BENGALURU
Efforts by BBMP to implement the zero-flex policy in the city appears to be not yielding desired results on the ground. Flexes, cut-outs, and banners continue to appear during festivals, political events, and private celebrations. » PAGE 2

State film awards 2019: Sudeep and Anupama the best

BENGALURU
Sudeep and Anupama Gowda have been adjudged best actor and best actress, respectively, in the Karnataka State Film Awards for 2019. While Sudeep won for his performance in *Pailwan,* Anupama clinched the honour for *Trayambakam.*

» PAGE 3

13 killed as train runs over passengers amid fire scare

Karnataka Express runs over passengers who jumped out of the Lucknow-Mumbai Pushpak Express; Maharashtra govt. announces an ex gratia of ₹5 lakh each for families of the deceased

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

At least 13 people were killed when they jumped down from their train following rumours of a fire and were hit by another train speeding down the adjacent track in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra on Wednesday evening.

The deceased include four women and nine men, Vijay Gaikwad, medical superintendent, Government Medical College and Hospital, Jalgaon, said.

At least 10 persons have been injured. Three of the injured have been admitted to hospitals in nearby Pachora, while the bodies of the dead have been sent to the Jalgaon Government Medical College for post-mortem examination.

Tragic loss: Injured passengers being moved from the accident site in Maharashtra's Jalgaon on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Maharashtra government has announced an ex gratia of ₹5 lakh each for the families of the deceased.

The accident occurred when sparks and smoke in one of the coaches of the Lucknow-Mumbai Pushpak Express triggered panic, leading to someone pulling the train's emergency chain around 5 p.m., according to Central Railways spokesperson Swapnil Nila.

The Pushpak Express came to a halt between the Maheji and Pardhade stations, about 400 km from Mumbai.

Some passengers, fearing a fire, jumped out on to the tracks and were run over by the Karnataka Express travelling from Bengaluru to Delhi.

Railway officials and the police told *The Hindu* that the sparks and smoke in the general coach likely stemmed from a "hot axle" or "brake-binding". Mr. Nila told presspersons that an accident relief train was dispatched from Bhusaval.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw expressed grief over the incident and directed proper treatment for all the injured.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray called for better safety measures, while Congress leaders Nana Patole and Vijay Wadettiwar criticised the government's handling of railway safety.

MOMENTS OF HORROR
» PAGE 12
CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Marco Rubio calls for talks on migration as he meets Jaishankar

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The U.S. wants to address the issue of illegal migration with India, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio told External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar during their meeting in Washington. The bilateral meeting was Mr. Rubio's first with any foreign dignitary after taking charge of the U.S. State Department on Tuesday.

The comments on immigration issues came a day after U.S. President Donald Trump issued an Executive Order cancelling 'citizenship by birthright' and cracking down on illegal immigrants.

A readout issued by the U.S. State Department on Wednesday said the two leaders had discussed a "wide range of issues"including "critical and emerging technologies, defence cooperation, energy, and on advancing a free and open Indo-Pacific region". "Secretary Rubio also emphasised the Trump Administration's desire to work with India to advance economic ties and address concerns related to irregular migration," it said.

Marco Rubio

Mr. Jaishankar, who posted photographs of the meeting on social media, did not refer to the conversation on "irregular migration".

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
CHANGED DYNAMICS
» PAGE 10

14 killed in two accidents in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Fourteen persons died and 29 were injured in two separate road accidents in Karnataka on Tuesday night and in the early hours of Wednesday.

Ten persons were killed and 19 injured when a truck laden with vegetables and fruits overturned in Arabail ghat region near Yellapur in Uttara Kannada district on Wednesday. The victims, all fruit and vegetable vendors, were travelling in the truck.

In the other accident, near Sindhanur of Raichur district, four persons, including three students of the Sanskrit Vidyapeetha at Mantralayam in Andhra Pradesh, were killed and 10 injured when their vehicle overturned. The drivers losing control of the vehicles is said to have been the reason for both the accidents.

FAMILIES LOSE BREADWINNERS
» PAGE 5

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ENROL NOW

‘You will see the whole range of emotions: passion, intensity, love, and that is Dortmund’

Managing director Carsten Cramer breaks down BVB’s football philosophy and expresses interest in the club starting a project in ‘crazy country’ India

Amitabha Das Sharma

As one walks into the Signal Iduna Park in downtown Dortmund on a match day, they are certain to be greeted by the thunderous chorus of ardent fans singing one of football’s most notable anthems – You'll Never Walk Alone. With around 81,000 supporters in Germany's largest stadium lending their voices to the iconic song, it creates a fantastic prelude to the duel that is about to unfold on the pitch.

The home of Borussia Dortmund (BVB), in one the largest cities in Germany’s industrially rich Ruhr Valley, is truly a sight to behold. The club's supporters, known as the Yellow Army, create an atmosphere that drives Dortmund players to always give their best on the pitch. It is one the largest attendances among the European leagues (third-largest after Barcelona's Camp Nou and Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium) and serves as a great advertisement of the passion and emotion that the sport generates in Deutschland.

One needs to be part of the process to experience the frenzy that football can generate truly. Bundesliga prides itself on being the stimulus in bringing out the kind of excitement and drama on the football pitch that is unmatched across the ‘Big Five’ leagues. The intense rivalry among the 18 teams in the Bundesliga stems from strong regional affiliations of fans.

“Over the last five seasons, we have had more than three goals a game, which is better than any of our rivals. The Bundesliga is full of excitement and drama. You will have seen that last year in the amazing season of Bayer Leverkusen,” says Tom Julian, manager international PR of Bundesliga, while hosting a group of Journalists from the Asia Pacific (APRC) region.

The statement worked like a prophecy when Dortmund hosted defending champion Bayer Leverkusen in their mid-season clash at the Signal Iduna Park on a snowy evening when the temperature dipped below freezing point. The match took place after several days of preparation by the groundsmen, who worked overtime to keep the grass fresh using special lights and heating equipment.

When the match got underway, the home side was in for a shock as Leverkusen found the opening goal within 26 seconds after the kick-off. The visitor then doubled the lead by the eighth minute.

Instead of falling silent in disbelief, the Yellow Army grew even more vocal and kept cheering for the home side to hit back. However, Leverkusen rode on its good form to win the intense five-goal contest by the tightest of margins. Despite the result, it seemed like a football fiesta all along with the fans enjoying every moment of the contest.

“We are not obligated to win. We have to try hard for 90 minutes. That's a typical Dortmund approach about how to enjoy football. You will see the whole range of emotions: passion, intensity, love, and that is Dortmund and hopefully you will agree after tonight's game as well,” said Carsten Cramer, the managing director of Borussia Dortmund.

“Borussia Dortmund has one of the largest fan bases in the world but even the fans know how the club works. That is about getting the young players, the rookie players, and making them superstars,” Cramer said, delving deeper into the process of the club’s management philosophy.

“Dortmund is not the biggest city in Germany, it is not even a wealthy city and we are competing with clubs from London, Milan, Madrid, Barcelona, and Paris, those are big cities with big clubs. That provokes us to deliver day by day with our own creative approaches,” Cramer said while insisting on the limitations of being a public club that is run by its members.

“We will never buy and hire a superstar but we will develop the young players and will enjoy seeing the likes of (Erling) Haaland playing for Manchester City. Of course, we would like to keep them as long as possible. As we are not owned by the Government or by any investor, we want to spend the Euros that we earn as wisely as possible. Our business philosophy is that you, at some certain point, will have to transfer some of the players,” the Dortmund MD stressed on the club’s well-developed academy that produced a line of stars over the years.

The club is trying to draw international partners and sponsors and also has India on its radar. “We do have the dream (of initiating a project in India) and from our perspective, India is a crazy country. People seem to be crazily interested in sports. Maybe cricket is still your main sport but whenever someone has represented us in India, everyone feels fixed and attracted and we are considering how to do it,” Carsten said, signing off.

(The writer was in Dortmund to experience “Football As It’s Meant To Be” organised by Bundesliga International and Sony Sports Network, the official broadcaster for Bundesliga in India).

‘In any decision we take, we ask what is important for the fan and what does the fan expect’

Amitabha Das Sharma

A fan’s love for the club is the Holy Grail of German football. This resonates in the philosophy of public participation, which serves as the guiding factor for the country’s top football league, the Bundesliga.

Unlike the sweeping corporatization of football across Europe and beyond, the Bundesliga presents a contrasting picture with its ‘50+1’ ownership rule. (The rule refers to the need for members of a club to hold 50 percent, plus one more vote, of voting rights - i.e. a majority)

“We put the fans at the centre. In any decision we take, we ask what is important for the fan and what does the fan expect from the club. We are a club that wants to be very familiar. Our training sessions are public,” insists Markus Aretz *(in pic)*, Borussia Monchengladbach’s managing director. This in essence is the guiding principle of the Bundesliga which the clubs are putting in practice.

“That’s a philosophy which is very important for us. When a new coach comes to our club, we always tell him one thing you have to learn, training is public. Maybe there’s one per week that’s not public because coaches always want to do something secretly, but the rest of the training sessions are public,” insists Aretz. “So there’s always our members and fans watching the training. We always have families that come and spend two, three or four days here at Borussia Park, stay at our hotel, go to the training, go to the restaurant, go to the fan shop, and make a stadium tour. That’s very important for us.”

Business model

Aretz is very clear about how the club wants its more than 100 thousand members to be involved. The 50+1 rule, which was implemented in 1998, has prompted the German clubs to put the members at the centre while formulating different business models to finance their strategies.

“It is about football culture. It is even approved by the likes of ESPN and Sky, who say what you bring over or what you distribute is by far the biggest and the best football culture in the world,” said Peer Naubert, Bundesliga’s international chief marketing officer. “Because we have the highest number of average stadium spectators per game, we are obviously by far the loudest, by far the most colourful league. And then we also have the 50+1 rule, making the club here very, very unique compared to the other leagues,” he added while pointing out how individuals or corporate investors are trying to overlook the fans’ interest in trying to maximize profit.

“The most important pillar of the club is sporting success, but what is also very important for us is that we work with economic efficiency. We only spend the money that we earned before. We don’t take any risks. That’s a very old strategy, goes back to the 1960s and 70s when the club became famous and that is how we run the board nowadays,” Aretz elaborates on how his club implements the rule.

“The members own the club and the club owns the company where the commercial football business is done. That’s a very simple structure and we take all the decisions keeping fans at the centre,” he added.

Aretz then explained the unique selling point, saying, “This area, what we call the Borussia Park, is 311,000 square meters. Everything is situated here, all the facilities including the stadium, the hotel, the merchandising, the medical centre, and the training pitches for the youth teams. This is something very unique in the Bundesliga.”

Building connections

Given its solid foundations, the 125-year-old club is in the process of expanding its global footprint, which is mostly about developing overseas partnerships and establishing its brand image. “Borussia Monchengladbach is not an average club. We are very well positioned and we have a very good brand properly positioned in the German market, and also in the international market,” said Philipp Havermann, Moncehengladbach’s head of internationalization and brand partnership.

Footprints

The club has footprints in Switzerland, Luxembourg, Colombia, Brazil, Japan, China, Indonesia, and Singapore, Havermann informed.

“Our positioning in foreign markets is passionate football. In foreign markets, it is German football development since 1900, the Borussia way.

“We bring football as education to children through Borussia academy, it may be in the form of football camps or through assistance in creating academies,” he said while insisting on developing territorial partnerships that bring profit to the club.

Will their internationalization drive bring Borussia Monchengladbach to the Indian shores? “Of course, the Indian market is prospering. It is developing and we know the importance of the Indian market for the future, for us and also for Bundesliga. But right now, for us, it is better to focus on the markets we have already tackled,” Havermann said.

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J BG-BGE

Despite blanket ban, illegal hoardings, flexes often spring up in city

The High Court, on a few occasions, has rapped BBMP for its failure to implement its ban order

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

A file photo of hoardings being removed in Bengaluru.

Action taken*

- Total number of flexes removed: **11,009**
- Penalty collected: **₹2,74,500**
- Total FIRs: **319**
- Total printing presses raided: **32**

* Between August, 1, 2024 and January 22, 2025

Efforts by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to implement the zero-flex policy in the city appears to be not yielding desired results on the ground. Flexes, cut-outs, and banners continue to frequently reappear in many parts of the city during festivals, political events, private celebrations, and other occasions.

Erecting them is banned since 2018 after the Karnataka High Court verdict on the same. The court, on a few occasions, rapped the BBMP for its failure to implement its order, the latest being in July 2024. The BBMP, along with the city police, had also chalked out a plan of action to crackdown on illegal flexes and hoardings. Recently, the BBMP submitted the draft of the BBMP (Advertisement) Bylaws, 2024, which allows outdoor advertising in the city again, with penal provisions to take action against illegal flexes. However, the bylaws have not been notified yet and the blanket ban continues.

A few days ago, around Sankranti festival, the city was dotted with thousands of flexes and banners, with several MLAs such as Priya Krishna and M. Krishnappa, and politicians cutting across party lines, including Ministers such as Krishna Byre Gowda, wishing people for the festival and advertising events they had organised. The practice of their followers wishing them for their birthdays also continues unabated. For instance, a cut-out of former BJP councillor N.R. Ramesh was put up for his birthday at Shastrinagar in Banashankari near his residence. Ironically, Mr. Ramesh is often seen raising objections to illegalities in the BBMP. Mr. Ramesh told *The Hindu* that the cut-outs are the work of his fans. "As they admire me, the cut-out was erected. It has been removed," he said.

Sudarshan Yadav, a resident of J.P. Nagar, said reappearance of flexes and banners is not uncommon. "Political leaders want their fans to put up flexes, and they enjoy this display," he said.

BBMP's claim

A senior BBMP official, while admitting that flexes do appear during these occasions, said civic workers immediately remove them. "As soon as we receive complaints from the general public, we remove them. We have strict directions to implement the ban."

According the data shared by the BBMP between August 1, 2024 to January 22, 2025, the BBMP has removed 11,009 flexes and collected ₹2,74,500 by way of penalty. As many as 319 FIRs have been registered and 32 presses printing these flexes and banners raided.

In July 2024, the BBMP claimed to have removed 8,500 unauthorised flexes and banners, and registered 180 FIRs. In August 2023, after the High Court directed the BBMP, the civic body removed 59,000 flexes. The BBMP had even slapped ₹50,000 fine on Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar for allegedly erecting an illegal banner outside the KPCC office.

However, action of this scale seems to be not visible in the last three months, said Mallikarjun, an activist who has been fighting against illegal hoardings for many years, adding that the BBMP springs to action only when pulled up by the High Court.

Draft bylaw

The newly proposed bylaws take significant steps to address key issues surrounding outdoor advertising in the city. For instance, they prohibit all forms of advertising on roads narrower than 60 feet, except in designated commercial and industrial zones.

Additionally, the bylaws ban advertisements on trees, street lights, and electricity poles. Restrictions are also placed on advertising near public roads, barring any displays within 50 feet of a traffic signal or within 50 metres of places of worship. While video advertisements are entirely prohibited, the bylaws also impose strict regulations on the use of neon lighting.

HC temporarily halts cutting of 530 trees for modern Command Hospital complex

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday temporarily halted the cutting of 530 trees on the premises of Command Hospital, Air Force, Bengaluru, for the construction of a modern multistoried hospital complex project till the court examined the legality of the permission granted by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to fell trees.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice M.I. Arun passed the interim order while hearing a PIL petition filed in 2018 by Dattatraya T. Devare and Bangalore Environment Trust. The petitioners had complained about non-adherence to provisions of the Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, 1976. The permission for felling any tree in Bengaluru, including for the metro project, since then is being examined by a Tree Expert Committee (TEC) set up on the directions of the court and the Tree Officer of the BBMP has been granting permission only based on the recommendation of the TEC.

Questioning the process

On Wednesday, it was pointed out by the counsel for the petitioner that they are not opposing the hospital project but are only questioning the process followed by the BBMP while granting the permission.

Following this, the Bench ordered not to cut any tree on the hospital premises till it examined the issue.

The Defence Estate Officer had sought permission to fell 736 trees and the TEC on inspection had found that there were another 13 trees in the project area. After examination, the TEC recommended the grant of permission to cut 530 trees. While declining permission to cut 211 trees, the TEC had asked the hospital authorities to retain these trees at their present location. Eight other trees were permitted to be translocated.

HC refuses to quash case against company founder, others facing cheating charge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The petitioners had questioned the December 2022 order passed by a magistrate court taking cognisance of offences

The High Court of Karnataka has refused to quash criminal proceedings against Anand Rathi, founder and director of Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers Ltd. (ARSSBL), and 10 other executives and officers of the company in a case of allegedly cheating a 67-year-old investor and indulging unauthorised monetary transactions through his bank account.

"I do not find any error in the order of rejection of 'B' report or taking of cognisance by the magistrate...," observed Justice M. Nagaprasanna in his recent order of refusing to interfere with the order passed in December 2022 by a metropolitan magistrate court in Bengaluru.

The High Court passed the order while rejecting the petitions filed by Anand Rathi, Pradeep Gupta, Priti Pradeep Gupta, Jugal Kishore Mantri, Shankar Raja M.P, Amarnath H.S., Rekha C., B.L. Nagaraja, Amith Anand Rathi, and Nimal Chandak, all part of ARSSBL and Anand Rathi Global Finance Ltd.

The petitioners had questioned the December 2022 order passed by the magistrate court in taking cognisance of the offences of cheating, criminal breach of trust, etc., against them while claiming that the dispute with the complainant was civil in nature.

Background of case

Vishwanath Pujari, a resident of Bengaluru and a seasoned investor trading in securities at the stock exchange platform, had lodged the complaint in 2017. The police initially filed a 'B' report in January 2019, indicating that no offence could be established against accused persons belonging to the ARSSBL. However, the magistrate court rejected the 'B' report and directed the police to conduct further investigation. After further probe, the police filed a second 'B' report in June 2021. Rejecting the second 'B' report, the magistrate court had taken cognisance of offences against the petitioner-accused.

The ARSSBL, while liquidating some stocks, worth around ₹1.04 crore held by him, towards the recovery of loan amount that he had allegedly defaulted in repayment, had allegedly indulged in unauthorised transaction of several crores of rupees through the bank account of the complainant by illegal use of the general power of attorney executed by the complainant.

The magistrate court had held that the investigating officer (IO) had not properly investigated the flow of money and huge share trading transactions through the account of the complainant besides not recording the statements of the accused on the allegation of operating the complainant's bank account, etc.

BBMP issues auction notices to 3 properties

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) issued notices to auction three properties on Wednesday to recover property tax dues. The BBMP commenced this process on Tuesday.

The notices were issued to property owners identified as Pillamma and V. Chittibabu. According to information shared by the BBMP, total due amount from Ms. Pillamma is pegged at ₹2.02 crore and it is ₹43 lakh from Mr. Chittibabu. Savitri V. Swamy and Satish V., joint owners of a property at R.R. Nagar, also received a notice. The total amount due from them is ₹20 lakh.

This action, carried out under Section 156(5) of the BBMP Act, 2020, comes after a range of measures to collect the dues failed, according to the civic body.

The measures included issuance of show-cause notices, demand notices, property attachment orders, and sealing of non-residential properties.

Showcasing heritage

All set: Karnataka's tableau for the Republic Day parade based on a temple at Lakkundi in Gadag district, during a press preview in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

Forest watcher among two held for trying to sell elephant tusks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Officials of the Forest Cell of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) caught a 27-year-old forest watcher while he was trying to sell two elephant tusks to prospective clients on Kollegal Ring Road on Tuesday.

Incidents of forest guards involved in illegal sale of tusks and wildlife articles seem to be on the rise and this is the third such case in the last six months in the State.

In this instance, the accused, Chandrashekhar, along with his brother-in-law Basavaraj, a tractor driver, was waiting to deliver the tusks when the CID Forest Cell team caught the duo. The third accused, Puttaswamy, 55, father of Chandrashekhar, managed to escape the police net and efforts are on to track him down.

A probe revealed that Chandrashekhar was working at Dodda Makali camp in Male Mahadeshwara Hills as a forest watcher for the last eight years. He reportedly confessed to the police that he saw the carcass of an elephant floating in a river while he was patrolling the forest area in November 2023, removed the tusks and hid them in the forest for many months.

He, along with his relatives, started spreading the word that they have elephant tusks. On being tipped off, CID Forest Cell authorities deployed decoys who approached Chandrashekhar posing as prospective clients and trapped him. The officials have taken him into custody and are probing further to trace the remains of the elephant.

In a similar case, CID Forest Cell officials arrested 30-year-old Nakulaiah from Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu, when he was trying to sell a pair of elephant tusks weighing 8.1 kg in December 2024. The accused reportedly confessed that he sourced the tusks from his brother Chinnaiah who worked as a forest watcher in Bannerghatta forest and is presently on the run.

In September 2024, villagers found a highly decomposed carcass of an elephant with two bullet wounds and with the tusks missing in Bhadra Forest Range. A probe is under way and the DCF, Bhadra Range, has been suspended in the case. The role of Forest Department officials is also under the lens.

APS trust to hold alumni meet on Sunday

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Acharya Pathashala (APS) Educational Trust will host a Mega Alumni Meet on Sunday at the APS playground.

The event will bring together former students and faculty members to celebrate the institution's history in the field of education.

"The intention is to foster the three C's: connectivity, celebration, and collaboration. This event will provide an opportunity to strengthen those bonds, celebrate our shared history, and explore ways to collaborate for the development of the institution," said Vishnu Bharath, president of the trust.

Over 90% of corporate employees aged below 25 experience signs of anxiety: Report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The data revealed an increase in suicide risk from 19% in 2023 to 22% in 2024. FILE PHOTO

A pan-India report on key trends and challenges around workplace mental health has found that over 90% of corporate employees under the age of 25 reported experiencing symptoms of anxiety, compared to 67% of those over the age of 45, in 2024.

The '*State of Emotional Well-being Report 2024*' has been brought out by 1to1help, an employee assistance programme provider, for the second consecutive year. Data from over 83,000 counselling sessions, 12,000 elective screenings, and over 42,000 assessments conducted between January and November 2024 were analysed.

Revealing an increase in the uptake of counselling services among corporate employees compared to 2023, the report found that mental health concerns, such as anxiety, depression and stress, comprised 15% of the total sessions in 2024. While counselling related to workplace concerns constituted 11% of the total counselling sessions, workplace relationship-related discussions claimed the top spot, comprising 23% of all such discussions.

Gender-specific insights

"Counselling uptake by men comprised 7% of the total sessions, with 70% of financial consultations being undertaken by men, reflecting their worries about financial anxiety and societal pressure surrounding their role as the breadwinner of the family. Notably, there was a disproportionately larger representation of women in counselling with 52% of all sessions being taken by women. Over 60% of relationship counselling was sought by women, affirming the emotional burden they often bear, in nurturing relationships," stated the report that was released on January 22.

The data revealed an increase in suicide risk from 19% in 2023 to 22% in 2024, and distress cases from 12% in 2023 to 17% in 2024.. "Alarmingly, 59% of employees referred by their managers showed signs of self-harm, reaffirming the need for manager training to help and support distressed employees," stated the report revealing that the dependents of employees are at higher risk of suicide.

According to the data, only 3% of individuals maintained a healthy digital balance, with most finding it challenging to disconnect from devices. This highlights the need to prioritise non-digital engagement and provide strategies to help employees manage technology use effectively.

Man dies after falling off moving train

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An unidentified man died after he fell off a moving train on the Malleswaram railway overbridge and crashed onto the road below from a height of around 25 feet on Wednesday.

Motorists moving under the bridge had a narrow escape when the victim crashed on the road. The victim was still writhing in pain when he crashed onto the road. Seshadripuram police rushed him to K.C. General Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries later.

The Railway police have taken up a case of unnatural death and are investigating to ascertain the cause of death.

The police suspect that the deceased was supposedly drunk and might have slipped after losing control.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph. 104 for help.)

25th show of 'Annana Nenapu'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

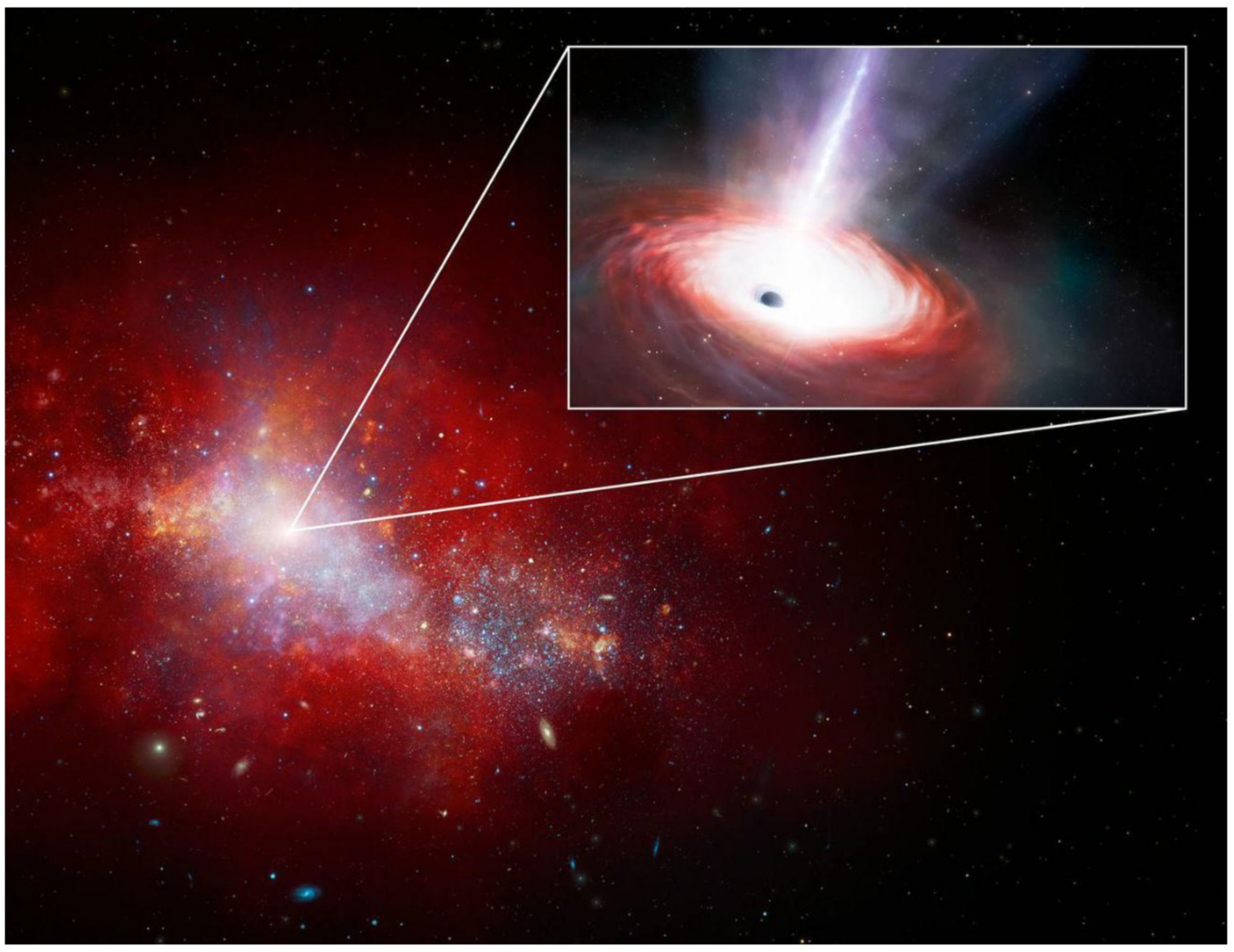
Pravara Theatre will present the 25th show of K.P. Poornachandra Tejaswi's documentary play *Annana Nenapu*, on Saturday at 7 p.m. The performance will be held at the KEA Prabhath Rangamandira, located at Basaveshwaranagar.

The play, which delves into the life and legacy of the renowned writer Kuvempu, is designed and directed by Hanu Ramasanjeeva.

Space telescopes stumble on rule-breaking black hole

LID-568 is a low-mass supermassive black hole that existed just 1.5 billion years after the Big Bang. An analysis of its effects on its neighbourhood has indicated that it was feeding on a surrounding cloud of matter at almost 40 times greater than what astrophysicists thought was the upper limit

Shreejaya Karantha



An artist's concept of a red, early-universe dwarf galaxy that hosts the black hole LID-568 at its centre. While short-lived, this black hole's 'feast' could help astronomers explain how supermassive black holes grew so quickly in the early universe. NOIRLAB/NSF/AURA/J. DA SILVA/M. ZAMANI

An international team of researchers using NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) and the Chandra X-ray Observatory has discovered a bizarre black hole that may provide insights into the genesis and growth of supermassive black holes.

Supermassive black holes are among the most common types of black holes in the universe. Most galaxies contain a supermassive black hole at their centres. These black holes have masses ranging from millions to billions of times that of the sun. The supermassive black hole Sagittarius A*, located at the center of the Milky Way galaxy, has a mass of approximately 4.3 million solar masses.

However, scientists are not yet fully certain how these giants grow to become so big.

Beyond the upper limit

The newfound black hole, designated LID-568, is a low-mass supermassive black hole that existed just 1.5 billion years after the Big Bang. If the universe were a human, it could be said to be around eight years old at this time.

A detailed analysis of its effects on its neighbourhood indicated that the black hole was feeding on a surrounding cloud of matter at an exceptional rate – almost 40 times greater than what astrophysicists thought was the upper limit.

The study was led by International Gemini Observatory/NSF NOIRLab astronomer Hyewon Suh, and the results were published in the journal *Nature Astronomy* in November 2024.

"We first identified this unusual object through Chandra X-ray observations, as it was exceptionally bright in X-rays but completely invisible in the deepest optical and near-infrared observations, even with the Hubble Space Telescope," Suh, the lead researcher, said.

"Because it was only detected in X-rays, we couldn't determine its nature. With JWST's unparalleled sensitivity in the infrared, we were finally able to uncover this exotic object, highlighting the complementary power of these observatories," she added.

A class apart

The rate at which a black hole feeds on matter is governed by what astronomers call the Eddington limit. This limit – named after the English astronomer Arthur Stanley Eddington because he worked it out first – is also related to how brightly a black hole can shine.

Nothing can escape a black hole, of course. But when a black hole pulls surrounding matter towards itself, the infalling material becomes compressed, heats up, and emits radiation, especially X-rays.

The concept behind the Eddington limit is straightforward: as matter collects around the black hole and gets packed into the disc, it heats up and emits radiation that generates an outward pressure capable of counteracting the gravitational pull of the black hole. When this radiation pressure balances the force of gravity, the black hole will stop accruing the matter. Ergo, there is a limit on how brightly the black hole can shine.

If this limit is crossed, the scenario is called a super-Eddington accretion. This is the category in which LID-568 lies.

Suh said that they measured the total light coming from the black hole and its mass using observations from Chandra and JWST's Near-Infrared Spectrograph instrument, which revealed the exceptional accretion behavior of LID-568.

Experts have hypothesised that super-Eddington black holes can exist. They have even found a few. But LID-568 has defied their expectation in two ways. First, it's much, much farther away. The most distant of these other black holes is "only" around 2.3 billion light years from earth. Second, while the known rule-breakers exceeded the Eddington limit by a factor of two or three, LID-568 has done so by a factor of roughly 40, according to Suh.

Super-Eddington episodes in black holes are expected to be short-lived, so it is also remarkable that researchers captured LID-568 in action.

Making sense of the oddball

The existence of supermassive black holes that are millions or even billions of times more massive than our sun poses a challenge to current models of black hole formation and growth. Scientists have confirmed that such black holes reside at the centres of many galaxies that should have formed when the universe was less than a billion years old. However, they can't explain how these objects came to be when the universe was so young, when there shouldn't have been enough matter for them to form.

According to some traditional models, Suh said, "supermassive black holes are thought to form from the death of the first star, i.e., light seeds with 10-100 times the mass of the sun, and/or through the direct collapse of primordial gas clouds, such as heavy seeds with 1,000-100,000 times the mass of the sun."

"However, these models lack direct observational confirmation and require sustained, continuous accretion of large amounts of matter over several hundred million years to account for the most extreme supermassive black holes observed in the early universe, which is likely difficult," she added.

The discovery of LID-568 is crucial because it suggests that large black holes could have put on a significant fraction of their weight during short-lived episodes of rapid feeding. If true, this mechanism would do away with black holes having to feed on large quantities of matter for a very long time and offer "a convincing explanation for how supermassive black holes could form so quickly, regardless of their initial seed mass," whether heavy or light.

Chasing more black holes

Suh also said there are several theories to explain how black holes can exceed the Eddington limit, including geometrically thick accretion discs, powerful black hole jets, and black-hole mergers. However, she said that her team still doesn't fully understand the exact mechanism that allowed LID-568 to feed so fast and that follow-up observations with JWST will be crucial to admitting or eliminating other hypotheses.

The existence of supermassive black holes millions or even billions of times more massive than our sun poses a challenge to current models of black hole formation. Scientists can't explain how they came to be when the universe was so young, when there shouldn't have been enough matter for them to form

The researchers also found that the galaxy where LID-568 resided wasn't producing many new stars – the result of the black supermassive hole driving powerful streams of material outward from the centre, called outflows. These outflows could be preventing matter from accumulating in enough quantities to form stars.

To confirm this idea as well as to inform it with more data, Suh said she and her team are planning to examine similar galaxies and examine their outflows, especially those driven by very large black fast-snacking holes.

The research team is also planning to find out how long a black hole can accrue matter at a super-Eddington rate as well as what percentage of all black holes do so.

(Shreejaya Karantha is a freelance science writer and a content writer and research specialist at The Secrets of The Universe. shreejayakaranth@gmail.com)

The Wuhan Institute of Virology in Hubei province, China, during a visit by a WHO team tasked with investigating the origins of COVID-19 in February 2021. REUTERS

Wuhan keen to shake off pandemic label after five years

Agence France Presse

Built in just days as COVID-19 cases spiked in Wuhan in early 2020, the Huoshenshan Hospital was once celebrated as a symbol of the Chinese city's fight against the virus that first emerged there.

The hospital now stands empty, hidden behind more recently built walls – faded like most traces of the pandemic as locals move on and officials discourage discussion of it.

On January 23, 2020, with the then-unknown virus spreading, Wuhan sealed itself off for 76 days, ushering in China's zero-COVID era of strict travel and health controls and foreshadowing the global disruption yet to come.

Today, the city's bustling shopping districts and gridlocked traffic are a far cry from the empty streets and crammed emergency rooms that marked the world's first COVID lockdown.

"People are moving forward; these memories are getting fuzzier and fuzzier," Jack He, a 20-year-old university student and Wuhan local, said.

At the former site of the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market, where scientists believe the virus may have crossed over from animals to humans, a light blue wall has been built to shield the market's closed stalls from view.

When *AFP* visited, workers were putting up Chinese New Year decorations on the windows of the market's second floor, where a warren of opticians' shops still operates.

There is nothing to mark the location's significance – in fact, there are no major memorials to the lives lost to the virus anywhere in the city.

Official commemorations of Wuhan's lockdown ordeal focus on the heroism of doctors and the efficiency with which the city responded to the outbreak, despite international criticism of the local government's censorship of early cases in December 2019.

Wuhan has shunned celebration of any reminders of the pandemic, and people are reluctant to get drawn into conversations about the past

The market's old produce stalls have been moved to a new development outside the city centre, where it was clear the city was still on edge about its reputation as the cradle of the pandemic.

Over a dozen vendors at the aptly named New Huanan Seafood Market refused to speak about the market's past.

The owner of one stall told *AFP* on condition of anonymity that "business here is not what it was before."

One of the few remaining public commemorations of the lockdown is next door to the abandoned Huoshenshan Hospital, an unassuming petrol station that doubles as an "anti-pandemic educational base."

One wall of the station was dedicated to a timeline of the lockdown, complete with discoloured photographs of President Xi Jinping visiting Wuhan in March 2020.

An employee said a small building behind the facility's convenience store housed another exhibit, but it was only open "when leaders come to visit."

But days before the fifth anniversary of the lockdown, those memories seemed far away, the city now a hive of activity.

Chen Ziyi, a 40-year-old Wuhan local, said she believed the city's increased prominence has actually had a positive impact, with more tourists visiting.

"Now everyone pays more attention to Wuhan," she said. "They say Wuhan is the city of heroes."

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

The psychology of colours

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

In a person with X, stimulating one sensory pathway, like smelling petrol, evokes a response from a different pathway, like seeing a blue square. For example, people with chromesthesia, a form of X, see colours when they hear sounds. Name X.

QUESTION 2

Y is an unusual feature where a person might see colours in an image that aren't really there, i.e. a disagreement between perception and sensation. It happens when the viewer doesn't know where the source of light in an image is. Name Y.

QUESTION 3

The Kruithof curve shows colours on a graph that are pleasing to the eye. The graph is a plot between _____ on one axis and colour temperature on the other. Colours towards the plot's centre are said to resemble those from natural sources. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 4

Physical objects don't have Z but they're known to exist in a theoretical sense thanks to the mathematics used to describe all colours. One theory to explain the "invisibility" of Z is called the opponent process. What is Z referring to?

QUESTION 5

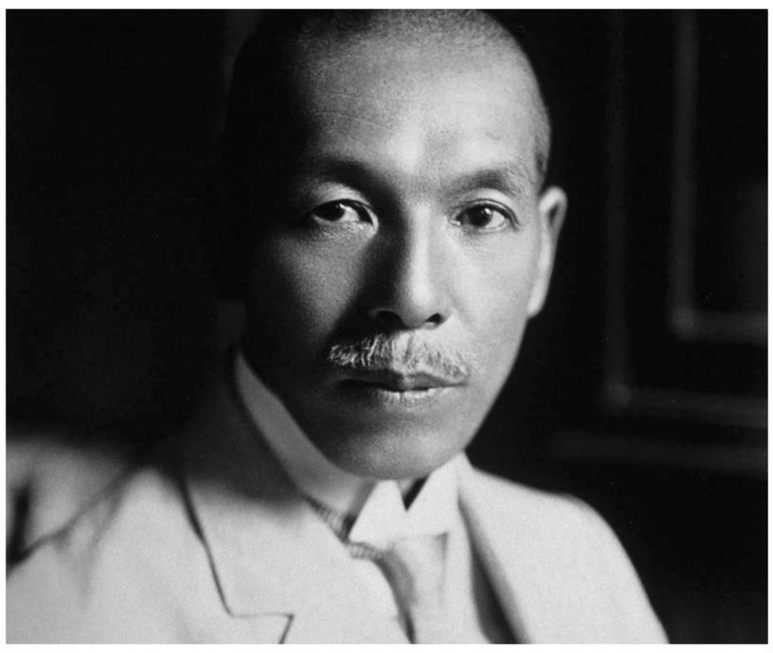
Sometimes when you expose your eyes to a particular image for more than a short duration, then take it away, your eyes continue to see the image. When this happens in the form of a disorder, it's called palinopsia. When it happens due to natural conditions, what is it called?

Answers to January 21 quiz:

1. Path of an object through spacetime – **Ans: World line**
2. Device capable of sending receiving signals before they're sent – **Ans: Tachyonic antitelephone**
3. Physicist who won a Nobel Prize for 1988 experiment – **Ans: Anton Zeilinger**
4. Paradox examining free will in a universe with time travel – **Ans: Newcomb's paradox**
5. Hugh Everett's interpretation of quantum physics – **Ans: Many-worlds interpretation**

Visual: **DeLorean**

First contact: ViswanadhaRao Batchu | K.N. Viswanathan | Anmol Agrawal | Sahil Agrawal | Kanad Saha



Visual: A common test to check for colour vision deficiency, colloquially called colour blindness, is called the _____ test. Fill in the blank with the name of the person (shown) who invented it. CREDIT: WELLCOME IMAGES (CC BY 4.0)

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

State film awards 2019: Sudeep, Anupama adjudged best actors

Sheshadri's 'Mohandas' bags the best film award; Harikrishna gets the best music director honour for 'Yajamana'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sudeep and Anupama Gowda have been adjudged the best actor and best actress, respectively, as the Karnataka State Film Awards for 2019 were announced on Wednesday. While Sudeep won the award for his performance in the sports drama *Pailwan,* Anupama clinched the honour for her role in the thriller *Trayambakam*.

Veteran P. Sheshadri's *Mohandas* emerged the winner in the best film category while 'Darling' Krishna's *Love Mocktail* and *Arghyam* were picked as the second and third best films, respectively. *Love Mocktail,* the hit romantic comedy starring Krishna and Milana Nagaraj, also bagged the best screenplay award, and the best playback singer male award, with Raghu Dixit being named the winner.

Sudeep

Anupama Gowda

Nagathihalli Chandrashekar's *India vs England* was chosen as the best popular film. *Kanneri* got the best film on social cause honour. V. Harikrishna, who co-directed and scored music for Darshan's *Yajamana,* won the best music director award.

While the Karnataka government had announced the winners for 2018, it is yet to hold the awards ceremony. The awards for the following years have not been given as well. During the opening ceremony of the 15th Bengaluru International Film Festival in March 2024, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had said that a committee had been formed to decide the winners for 2019.

The State government had attributed the delay to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The other winners are: Best art direction: Hosmane Murthy (*Mohandas*), best cinematography: G.S. Bhaskar (*Mohandas*), best story: Jayanth Kaikini (*Illu Iralaare Ali Hogalaare*), best actor in supporting role (male): Tabala Nani (*Chemistry of Kariappa*), best actor in supporting (female): Anusha Krishna (*Brahmi*), best child actor (male): Master Preetam (*Minchulu*), best child actor (female): Vaishnavi Adiga (*Sugandhi*), best playback singer (female): Jayadevi Jangamashetti (*Raga Bhairavi*).

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NIMHANS gender sensitisation campaign covers 25,000 students

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A gender and personal safety sensitisation programme taken up by doctors from NIMHANS in government schools of Bengaluru has reached close to 25,000 children since May, 2022.

The campaign run by a team led by Eesha Sharma, Associate Professor in the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at NIMHANS, is ending this month. Funded by the Safe City Project of the Bengaluru City Police, under the Centre's Nirbhaya scheme, the campaign was taken up in collaboration with Karnataka's Department of School Education.

Over the last 2.5 years, the team reached 205 schools and as many as 24,925 children and adolescents in the North and South administrative zones of Bengaluru.

In addition, 10 batches, including more than 350 teachers, were sensitised to issues of children's safety and how they could conducively support children in school environments.

I HAVE A RIGHT TO...
feel safe
live and grow healthy
go to school and learn
play
live with my family
share my opinion and be heard
be treated fairly and equally
Department of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, NIMHANS, Bengaluru
The United Nations Convention on the Rights Of The Child
NIMHANS on Wednesday released a film on personal safety for children.

Two modules

"The programme catered to school students from grades 6th to 10th, running in two parallel modules - one for 6th-7th graders focusing primarily on physical and emotional personal safety and the other module for 8th-10th graders that included components of gender, sexuality, roles and relationships, love and attraction, alongside personal safety in related contexts," Prof Sharma told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

The content of the school-based sessions in this programme was based upon two manuals published by the Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Project, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, NIMHANS, in 2017.

"The activities used to inculcate gender, sexuality and personal safety skills in children and adolescents have been previously field tested and found to be effective. For the first time the manuals were used to design a classroom-based programme.

Through our work on the programme, we have translated the manuals used into Kannada, and they are available through our department for use by anyone who works with children.

We have also developed posters on children's safety that can be displayed as Information, Education and Communication (IEC) in schools," the doctor said.

Film on personal safety

The team has now produced an animation film on personal safety for children. The film titled "Nanna Surakshate Nanna Hakku" (My safety is my right) was released and screened for over 200 children and their teachers from nine schools of Bengaluru at NIMHANS on Wednesday.

The 80-minute film introduces various concepts of personal safety and empowers children to identify unsafe experiences and seek help.

The protagonist of the film, 'Anu' shares with her friend 'Deepu' about how 'Raju Anna' and 'Priya Akka' had come to their school and told them stories and organised games that helped her understand about how to keep herself safe and what she can do if she feels unsafe.

The film can be used for independent viewing or as material for discussion-based learning. The film will be available to the public through NIMHANS website, said Prof Sharma.

The screening was also attended by Commissioner for Public Instruction School K.V. Trilok Chandra, Joint Commissioner of Police (Admin) Kuldeep Kumar Jain, NIMHANS director Prathima Murthy, former H.O.D. of Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Shekhar P. Seshadri and current H.O.D. K. John Vijaysagar.

Technical snag: NTA to re-conduct JEE Mains for 114 students

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Due to technical glitches at an examination centre in the city, the National Testing Agency (NTA) has decided to re-conduct the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main-2025 (session 1) on January 28 and 29 for 114 students who took the exam at this centre.

Public notice

The NTA has issued the public notice on Wednesday saying due to a technical snag in Examination Centre - eTalent, (TC code-40086), No.3, Belmar Estate, Nagasandra Main Road, during conduct of JEE (Main)-2025 Session-I (Shift-1) Examination on January 22, 2025, the examination for 114 affected candidates will be re-conducted on January 28 and 29.

Fresh admit cards

"These candidates will be issued fresh admit cards along with other candidates scheduled to appear on the above mentioned dates," the circular stated.

The Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main-2025 (session 1) is being conducted between January 22 to 29 across the country. As shared by students there were issues with the computers provided to them to attend the test at this particular centre. "In the middle of the test, the computer turned off and it happened twice. By the time they shifted me to another computer I lost at least 20 minutes and could not attend 5 questions," said a student who appeared for the test at the centre. At least 20 students faced similar problems.

11th edition of Aarohan science fest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 11th edition of *Aarohan,* the annual science fest organised by Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham's Bengaluru campus, was held on January 17 and 18.

The event brought together over 1,200 students from classes 8 to 12, promoting innovation, collaboration, and hands-on learning in science and technology. Participants showcased creative, student-led projects across various scientific fields in a project exhibition.

PDO, SDA of Gangolli GP caught while taking bribe

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Lokayukta police on Wednesday arrested Panchayat Development Officer Umashankar and second division assistant G. Shekar, both from the Gangolli Gram Panchayat in Udupi district, for allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹22,000 for issuing Form 9 and Form 11 for non-agricultural land. In a press release, the Lokayukta police said the complainant had filed before the panchayat an application seeking issuance of Form 9 and Form 11 in connection with his non-agricultural land.

₹27,000 demanded

Umashankar and Shekar allegedly demanded ₹27,000 for issuing the two forms. Then the complainant approached the Udupi Lokyukta police who trapped Umashankar and Shekar while they were allegedly accepting ₹22,000.

THE HINDU GROUP
ACES SPORTS QUIZ
1. Indian badminton star PV Sindhu ended her title drought at the 2024 Syed Modi International Badminton Tournament in Lucknow. When was her last BWF World Tour title before this?
2. At the 2024 Paris Olympics, Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh won a bronze medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team event by defeating which country's team with a score of 16-10?
3. Who was the only Indian to be chosen as a pre-draft pick in Women's Big Bash League 2024?
Scan the QR code or visit sstar.news/SSAA2025AQ to take part in the quiz and vote for your favourite stars. Top 3 winners every day will win exciting gift vouchers*.
*T&C apply.
Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Silver
2. Fourth
3. Lakshya Sen
Yesterday's Winners:
1. Vennela Agireddi, Visakhapatnam
2. B.Amulya Sai Rao, Hyderabad
3. Mahesh Chawla, Chennai
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The rise in India's hiring activity in December 2024

31 In per cent year-on-year. Consumer electronics, manufacturing, and construction and engineering were leading the charge with 60%, 57%, and 57% year-on-year, respectively. Meanwhile, AI jobs in India surged 42% over the past two years reaching 2,53,000 positions. PTI

Number of trains to run for Maha Kumbh on Mauni Amavasya

150 The Prayagraj Railway Division has rolled out extensive plans to run special fair trains to accommodate the large influx of devotees expected on Mauni Amavasya. These special trains will be operated from all nine stations in Prayagraj, ensuring smooth travel. PTI

The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for raw jute in 2025-26

5,650 In ₹ per quintal. The Union Cabinet approved the MSP for raw jute for 2025-26. This is an increase of 6% or ₹315 over the previous MSP. The new MSP ensures a return of 66.8% over all-India weighted average cost of production. PTI

Number of people who fled the Sudan war to South Sudan

1 in million. The UN said the figures illustrated the scale of the unfolding humanitarian crisis. Tens of thousands have been killed and more than 12 million have been forced from their homes since conflict erupted between Sudan's army and a rival paramilitary group in April 2023. AFP

Number of people killed in the Indonesian landslide

19 Hundreds of rescuers were searching through thick mud and debris to find survivors. Intense rainfall in a mountainous area near the Pekalongan city in Central Java province sparked the landslide on Monday, collapsing bridges and burying houses. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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What is U.S.'s new rule for exporting AI chips?

What is the main objective behind one of the last orders of the Biden administration? How will the tiered framework for licensing and exporting Artificial Intelligence chips work? How has the tech industry responded to the move? Will it affect India?

EXPLAINER

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:

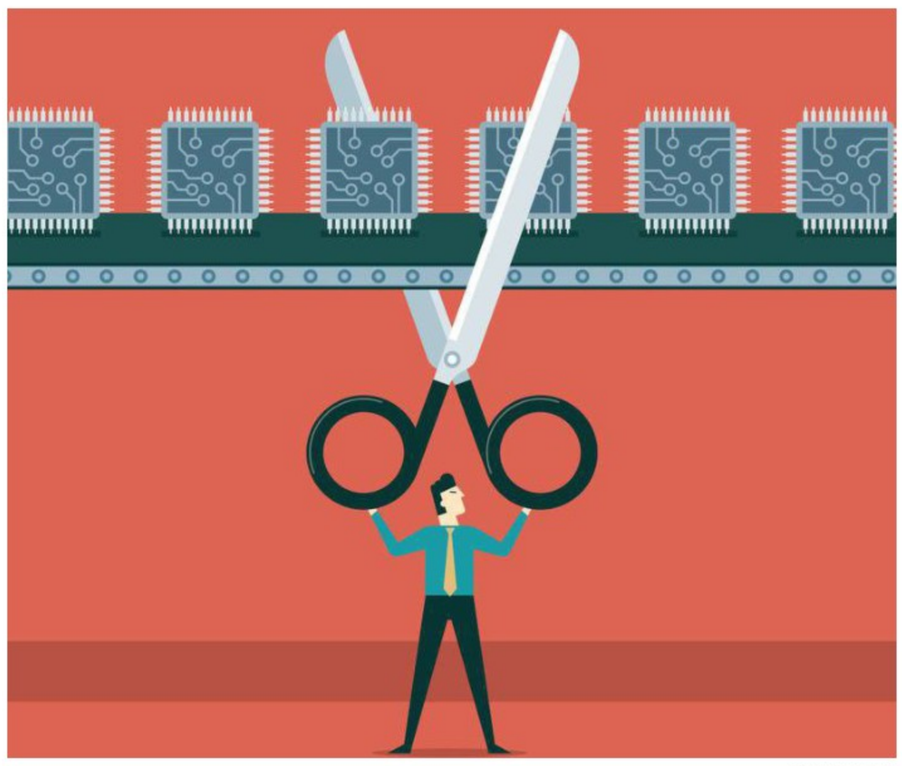
With an objective to advance increased control over circulation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) chips and technology, the U.S. Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) introduced a tiered framework for licensing and exports. It held the regulations were in tandem with "national security and foreign policy interests". Further, it would help "cultivate a secure and trusted technology ecosystem for the responsible use and diffusion of AI".

What technology are we discussing?

Broadly, the regulation concerns advanced computing chips and certain closed AI model weights. AI models are software programs that comprise a series of mathematical operations. When data is entered into the program, it executes those operations on the entered data (provided by the user) to produce outputs which could be information, analysis or media. It is the design of these operations and their arrangement, known as the model architecture, that determines the nature and quality of the output.

What do the regulations propose?

The new regulations update existing rules for export, re-export and transfers (in-country) by segregating countries into three tiers – each harbouring different rules for licensing and authorisation. The first of these tiers entail no restrictions for the export, re-export or transfer of advanced computing chips to 18 U.S. allies and partners, including Australia, Belgium, Canada, South Korea, U.K. and Japan, among others. The second tier introduces caps on volume and exemptions based on specifications alongside mandatory authorisation and licensing. It holds that transactions that could contribute to the development of advanced AI models would require a Validated End User (VEU) authorisation. Those that do not contribute to the development of advanced AI models, such as chips with a collective computation power of roughly 1,700 advanced GPUs, would not need an authorisation. China and India together have been categorised under this sub-head. The third tier includes arms-embargoed countries, such as North Korea, Iraq, Iran and Russia, among others. These countries will have no access to the technology.



GETTY IMAGES

Why has access been curtailed?

One of the main objectives has been to ensure that the technology (or equipment) do not reach the 'countries of concern' or U.S. adversaries. Furthermore, as detailed in the Federal Register, it strives to ensure that model weights are stored outside the U.S. "only under stringent security conditions" and that the large clusters of advanced integrated circuits (ICs) necessary to train those models are "built in destinations that pose comparatively low risks of diversion or misuse". The BIS determined that adversaries could potentially use the advanced AI systems to improve speed and accuracy of their military decision making, planning and logistics. BIS also observed that access to systems could potentially lower the barrier for non-experts to develop weapons of mass destruction, support offensive cyber operations and assist in human rights violations (such as through mass surveillance). Separately, it is essential to note that the BIS placed concerns about Chinese companies utilising "foreign subsidiaries in a range of uncontrolled destinations to buy ICs".

What are the concerns?

The primary concern relates to the threat to U.S.' global competitiveness in the realm. Ned Finkle, Vice President of Govt Affairs at NVIDIA – among the largest chip makers globally, wrote in a blogpost that it would undermine the innovation that has kept the U.S. ahead. Mr. Finkle argued that the rules would do nothing to enhance U.S. security. "The new rules would control technology worldwide, including technology that is already widely available in mainstream gaming PCs and consumer hardware."

Ken Glueck, Executive Vice President at Oracle, wrote in December 2024, that the rules assumed there were no other non-U.S. suppliers to procure GPU technology from. Explaining the aspect about competitiveness, the Oracle executive stated that by adding "more chips to the problem, you can keep playing the game". "If your alternate supplier has less performance, you can achieve parity by just adding more GPUs for the task. Enter Huawei and Tencent. Do it a cheaper price. Enter the CCP. And deploy it globally, enter Alibaba," he explained. The rules have been introduced less than a week before President-elect Donald Trump's return to the White House. The tech industry have pinned their hopes on the incoming administration to withdraw the framework.

Do these rules impact India?

According to Pranay Kotasthane, Chairperson at High Tech Geopolitics Programme at Takshashila Institution, big Indian data centres wanting to deploy advanced AI chips might need to apply for the VEU authorisation to speed things up. He observed that Indian companies acquiring the VEU authorisation can utilise the exported items for civilian and military purposes except for nuclear-end uses. "All in all, it does not seem to be a big deal. The bigger story is that India is not in the trusted allies and partners category, probably because of the leakages of chips to Russia," he said.

THE GIST

- The new regulations update existing rules for export, re-export and transfers (in-country) by segregating countries into three tiers — each harbouring different rules for licensing and authorisation.
- The primary concern relates to the threat to U.S.' global competitiveness in the realm. Ned Finkle, Vice President of Govt Affairs at NVIDIA, wrote in a blogpost that it would undermine the innovation that has kept the U.S. ahead.
- The tech industry have pinned their hopes on the incoming administration to withdraw the framework.

Is the government encouraging 'crosspathy'?

Why did the Maharashtra Food and Drugs Administration issue a directive allowing homeopathic practitioners to prescribe allopathic medicines?

Zubeda Hamid

The story so far:

The Maharashtra Food and Drugs Administration has, in a recent directive, allowed homeopathic practitioners, who have completed a certificate course in modern pharmacology, to prescribe allopathic medications.

Why is it being challenged?

In 2017, the Maharashtra Medical Education and Drug Department had issued a notification allowing homeopathic practitioners to practise modern medicine. As per this notification, doctors who had obtained the Licentiate of the Court of Examiners of Homeopathy degree from 1951-1982 (the degree was abolished in 1982), and were registered with the Maharashtra Medical Council, were allowed to practise modern medicine. This directive was challenged in the Bombay High Court by the Indian Medical Association (IMA). The High Court issued a stay, with the Bench questioning the risk that could be posed to patients if these doctors were allowed to practise allopathy.

IMA Maharashtra president Santosh Kadam said it was unclear why the Maharashtra FDA had now issued this directive. He said that even the central body for homeopathy had no provision to allow its practitioners to practise another stream of medicine and that 'crosspathy' was banned by the Supreme Court. Following the Bombay High Court stay, homeopathic practitioners were not allowed to prescribe allopathic medication, until the final decision of the court came in, he said.

Former secretary of the IMA, Maharashtra, Parthiv Sanghvi, pointed out that the issue has been portrayed as the Maharashtra government allowing homeopathic practitioners to practise modern medicine – which is not the case, as this has already been stayed by the High Court. "This was a direction to chemists to entertain allopathic prescriptions of homeopathic practitioners. But who has given the FDA the authority to issue such a directive, in light of the fact that court has stayed the order allowing homeopathic practitioners to practise modern medicine," he asked.

What is SC's stance on 'crosspathy'?

In 1996, in *Poonam Verma versus Ashwin Patel and Others*, which involved a homeopath treating a patient with allopathic medications and the patient subsequently dying, the Supreme Court held the homeopath liable for negligence as he had prescribed medications that he was not qualified to. A 2015 research paper by Suresh Bada Math et al states: "Across judgments, the judiciary has held that cross-system practice is a form of medical negligence; however, it is permitted only in those states where the concerned governments have authorised it by a general or special order."

Is there a shortage of doctors?

The Central government has been promoting AYUSH medicine for some years now, with a push being given to integrative/integrated medicine. The rationale, in general, has been that India has a shortage of doctors, particularly in rural areas, and that the AYUSH cadre of practitioners can help fill in these gaps.

As per a Parliament statement in February 2024, there are 13,08,009 allopathic doctors registered with the State medical councils and the National Medical Commission as on June 2022, and 5.65 lakh AYUSH doctors. The shortage of specialists is dire – the Health Dynamics of India 2022-23 report reveals a nearly 80% shortage of specialist doctors in community health centres across rural India. Public health specialist Soham Bhaduri pointed out that while there is evidence that mid-level providers can provide care of comparable quality to that of medical doctors, their orderly integration into the system is crucial. "Allowing just any cadre of alternative medical practitioners to assume roles and functions that are meant for medical doctors is a recipe for anarchy."

THE GIST

- In 2017, the Maharashtra Medical Education and Drug Department had issued a notification allowing homeopathic practitioners to practise modern medicine. This directive was challenged in the Bombay High Court by the Indian Medical Association.
- The Central government has been promoting AYUSH medicine for some years now, with a push being given to integrative/integrated medicine.
- The rationale, in general, has been that India has a shortage of doctors, particularly in rural areas, and that the AYUSH cadre of practitioners can help fill in these gaps.

Can Fin Homes Ltd

Can Fin Homes Ltd (Sponsor: CANARA BANK) HOME LOANS • DEPOSITS

SAHAKARNAGAR BRANCH

No.553, Therani Towers 1ST Floor, F- Block 60 Feet Rd, Above IOB Bank, Sahakarnagar - 562159. Ph : 080- 23636425, Mob – 7625079141 e-mail: sahakaranagar@canfinhomes.com CIN: L85110KA1987PLC008699

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

[proviso to rule 9(1)]

Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

NOTICE is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the Constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., Sahakarnagar Branch, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **10-02-2025** for recovery of **Rs.1,01,24,459/-** (Rupees One Crore One Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Four Hundred And Fifty Nine Only) due to Can Fin Homes Ltd. From M**r. Jayaprakash R (Borrower), Mrs. Sowmya J (Co-Borrower) and Mr. Vishnu Vaishnav Prasanna (Guarantor),** as on 22-01-2025, together with further interest and other charges thereon.

The reserve price will be **Rs.34,50,000/-** (Rupees Thirty Four Lakh Fifty Thousand only) and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs.3,45,000/-** (Rupees Three Lakh Forty Five Thousand only)

Description of the Immovable Property

Western portion of Immovable Property bearing Site No.68, Khatha No.1158, Allotment No.3, Formed in Converted in Sy. No 10/1, situated at Venkatala Village and Sy No.60/1, 61/1 and 61/2-A, of Kogilu Village, vide Conversion Order B.BIS.ALN.SR/4620, Dated 08-05-1970, formed by the Sri Maruthi Badavara Gruha Nirmana Seva Sangha Vide Regd. No. S-121/68, situated at Maruthinagar, Kogilu Road, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, Now comes under Jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Ward No.01, Bangalore, Measuring East to West 30 Feet and North to South 40 Feet, in all Measuring 1200 Sq. Ft and Bounded on The: East By: Eastern Portion Of The Same Site No. 68, West By: Private Property, North By: Road, South By: Site No.67.

Any Encumbrance: Nil

The detailed terms and conditions of the sale are provided in the official website of Can Fin Homes Ltd., (https://www.canfinhomes.com/SearchAuction.aspx).

Date: 22.01.2025
Place : Bengaluru

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO)
ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
(CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP)
Plot No.12&13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-58. Ph: 080-28094541/ 4178, Fax: 080-28094180

BRIEF TENDER NOTICE E-TENDER

CORRIGENDUM -I Date:22.01.2025

On behalf of President of India, **Sealed Item rate E-Tender** is invited online from Contractors of appropriate class for the following work in NIT by **Group Head,** ISTRAC, ISRO, Peenya, Bengaluru-58 (Ph:080-2809 4541, 4178).

Name of work	**Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Central Air Conditioning plants (excluding chiller), AHU and other AC systems installed at SCC, MOX-1&2 at Peenya and Technical Complex & IRNSS IDSN, Byalalu, ISTRAC, Bengaluru.**
E-Tender Notice	**ISTRAC/CMG/A.C/MAINT/E-Tender-65/ 2024-2025, Dated:26.12.2024**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Rs. 31.64 Lakhs**
Tender Document Details	**E-Tenders**
Period of Completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	**24 (Twenty Four) Months with a provision to extend the contract further for a period of one year with same terms and conditions**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	From 02.01.2025 to 18.01.2025 till 16.00 hrs. **Extended up to 29.01.2025 till 16.00 hrs.**
Bid Clarification	From 03.01.2025 to 19.01.2025 till 16.00 hrs. **Extended up to 30.01.2025 till 16.00 hrs.**
Last date & time for reply to Bid Clarifications	20.01.2025 up to 16.00 Hrs. **Extended up to 31.01.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	21.01.2025 up to 16.00 Hrs. **Extended up to 03.02.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Due date and time of opening of tenders.	22.01.2025 after 11.00 Hrs. **Extended up to 04.02.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 63,280.00**

Interested tenderers may please refer **Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)** for eligibility criteria and other details from website **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through KPP Portal only)

No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/24-25/EPR-01/8171-73 Date: 22.01.2025

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No: **KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/ BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/24-25/EPR-01/Call-4 Dated: 24.06.2024** for the work of **"Upgradation of protection system at 220kV station, BWSSB, Tataguni, Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru pertains to Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Bengaluru".**

The Bids will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **'E Procurement KPTCL'** or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **23.01.2025.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Ele.,
Transmission(Maintenance),BMAZ South Circle, KPTCL, Ground Floor, Office Complex, Anandarao Circle, Bengaluru - 560 009.

NOTICE FOR SUBSTITUED SERVICE

In the matter of :

SUZLON GLOBAL SERVICES LIMITED (Applicant)
VS.
MARIS CEMENTS PRIVATE LIMITED (Respondent)
BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU BENCH, C.P. (IB) NO. 171 OF 2024

To,

MARIS CEMENTS PRIVATE LIMITED
C-122, Sri Balaji Nilaya, B.H Road, Vasanth Nagar, Huliyar, Tumkur, Karnataka -572218

Notice is hereby given that the Applicant has filed an application under Section 9 of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 before National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench.

Whereas, efforts have been made to serve the notice to the Respondent at their registered addresses and email, but the Respondent has left without accepting the notice; Thereby, the Hon'ble Tribunal directed for a substituted service of the notice by publication in newspaper.

Now therefore, this, notice is hereby given and the captioned matter is listed for hearing before the Hon'ble Tribunal on 17.02.2025. Accordingly, the Respondent is directed to appear on the said date, failing which the Tribunal may proceed ex-parte.

as per Tribunal Dated this _____

For **Suzlon Global Services Limited**
Sukirti Singh (Advocate)
Economic Laws Practice, 6TH Floor, Rockline Center, Opp Midford Road, Bangalore
Contact No. 9829265857

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಆಯುಷ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಆಯುಷ್ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸುಗ್ಗನ ಹಳ್ಳಿ, ರಾಮನಗರ ತಾ॥ ಮತ್ತು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಇ-ಮೇಲ್:atcsramanagar@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಆತಕೇಂಸು/**e-tender/1**/2024-25 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 21-01-2025

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಷಯ: ಆಯುಷ್ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸುಗ್ಗನ ಹಳ್ಳಿ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಡೆಯುವ ತರಬೇತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಲಘು ಉಪಹಾರ, ಊಟ, ತಯಾರಿಸಲು/ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು.

ಆಯುಷ್ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸುಗ್ಗನ ಹಳ್ಳಿ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯುವ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಾರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ **CMC** ಯಿಂದ ಅನುಮತಿ ಪಡೆದ ಆಹಾರ ಪೂರೈಕೆಗೆ ಲೈಸನ್ಸ್ ಹೊಂದಿದ ಹಾಗೂ ಟ್ರೇಡ್ **(Trade)** ಲೈಸನ್ಸ್ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಹೋಟಲ್ ಮಾಲೀಕರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸೀಲ್ ಬಂದ ಲಕೋಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ **e-tender** ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಕ್ಷಮ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಲೈಸನ್ಸ್ ಹೊಂದಿದ ಹೋಟಲ್ ಮಾಲೀಕರು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹಾಕಲು ಅರ್ಹರಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅತೀ ಕಡಿಮೆ ದರ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಹೋಟಲ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಮಾಲೀಕರಿಗೆ ಆದೇಶ ನೀಡಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದವರೆಗೆ ಆಹಾರ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಆದೇಶ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಆಯುಷ್ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ಸುಗ್ಗನ ಹಳ್ಳಿ ರವರು ಒಪ್ಪಿದ ದರಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯನ್ನು ನಿಗಧಿತ ದಿನಾಂಕಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಮುಂಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಮುಕ್ತಾಯಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ರದ್ದು ಪಡಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

1) ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್ ಲೈನ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಚಾರಪಡಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **23/01/2025,** 2) ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. **52000/-,** 3) ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗಳ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **06-02-2025** ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 4) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **10-02-2025** ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.45, 5) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **11-02-2025** ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.45, 6) ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ ವಿಳಾಸ : **atcsramanagar@gmail.com**

ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು **Website: Through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಿಂದಲೂ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ, ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲು ಮೊ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : **9880768986, 9886727071, 9916563023** ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯುವುದು,

ಸಹಿ/-
ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಆಯುಷ್ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ

DIPR/CP/4507/Zen/2024-25

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my clients propose to purchase the property mentioned in the schedule herein from its owners who are the family members of **late Nanne Sabi, I.e., Hussain Bi, Bi Bi Jan, Patti Ma, Gulab Jan and Aktharunnissa**, who are the present co-owners in possession and enjoyment of the Schedule Property. The aforementioned Nanne Sabi acquired right and title to the Schedule Property by way of registered sale deed dated 19.05.1949, executed by Sri. Hanumanth Rao son of Sri. Narasimha Rao and registered as Document No. 2465/1948-1949, registered in the office of the sub-registrar, Gowribidanur.

Persons objecting for the proposed sale or having any right in the said property may lodge his/their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence **within 7 days** from the date of this publication and objections and/or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my Clients and my Clients will proceed to purchase the Schedule Property as if there are no claims/objections.

Schedule Property

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Survey No. 240/2A1 (Old Sy. No. 240/2) of Kalludi Village, Kasaba Hobli, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapura District, totally measuring 6 Acres and 1 Gunta and bounded on :- **East by :** Property belonging to Gowramma, **West by:** Property belonging Ganesh Reddy, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Property belonging Ganesh Reddy.

Ashwin kumar. H, Advocate
AV Law Chambers, 8th main road, Malleshwaram,Bangalore- 560055.
Phone: 9980023107,
Email: ashwin.advocate7@gmail.com.

CENTRAL RAILWAY

SOLAPUR DIVISION

E-Tender Notice

DRM(M)'s office, Central Railway, Solapur on behalf of the President of India invites sealed tender from the reputed firms/contractors for the following work. **Tender Notice No. GEM/2025/B/5818205, dated - 20.01.2025. Name of work with its location**: The contract work of Annual maintenance & operation contract (AMOC) of Bio-toilets in coaches of Solapur division for the period of Three years. **System of tendering**: Two packet system. **Approximate cost of work**: Rs. 3,18,71,620.83. **Cost of the Tender form**: Nil. **Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased**: DRM(M)'s office, Central Railway, Solapur. **Earnest money to be deposited**: Rs. 3,09,360/-. **Completion period of the work**: Three years from the date of commencement of the work. **Date and time for submission of tender**: 13.02.2025 at 09:00 hrs. **Date and time of opening of tender**: 13.02.2025 at 09:30 hrs. **Website particulars notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen: www.gem.gov.in**

Sr. DME
DE/Sur-46 **Central Railway, Solapur**

अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Following E-tenders are invited by DRM (Engg.) NWR/Ajmer at 15.00 Hrs. on the mentioned date **1. Tender No. :** 133/2024 **Name of work :** AJMER-Enhancement of laundry machines at Ajmer laundry. **Approximate Cost :** Rs. 57,16,045.15 **Earnest Money :** Rs.1,14,300.00 **Tender Closing Date :** 30.01.2025 **2. Tender No. :** 144/2024 **Name of work :** Ajmer-Supply of Potable Drinking Water through Road Tankers in the jurisdiction of ADEN (HQ) Ajmer for 24 months. **Approximate Cost :** Rs. 59,28,760.30 **Earnest Money :** Rs.1,18,600.00 **Tender Closing Date :** 24.01.2025 **3. Tender No. :** 01/2025 **Name of work :** ADEN/DNRP subdivision:- Installation of track mounted automatic Gauge Face Lubricators (Electronic Type) for 01KM category) on curves (159 Nos.) **Approximate Cost :** Rs. 8,03,39,202.00 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 5,51,700.00 **Tender Closing Date :** 30.01.2025 **4. Tender No. :** 03/2025 **Name of work :** ADEN/RPZ subdivision:- Installation of track mounted automatic Gauge Face Lubricators (Electronic type) (upto 1KM) on curves (94 Nos.) **Approximate Cost :** Rs. 4,74,96,132.00 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 3,87,500.00 **Tender Closing Date :** 30.01.2025 **5. Tender No. :** 17/2025 **Name of work :** ADEN/HQ/Ajmer Sub Division: Special Repairs to Approach Road and Circulating area of Bungalows. And Ajmer Miscellaneous repair in Railway colony under SSE (W) North Jurisdiction. **Approximate Cost :** Rs. 2,18,26,478.00 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 2,59,100.00 **Tender Closing Date :** 11.02.2025 The detailed information of the above tender is available on website www.ireps.gov.in and Tender Notice Board of DRM Office,NWR/Ajmer.

86-DR/25

Please join us on /NWRailways NWRailways_

GENERAL PUBLIC CAUTION NOTICE

This is to inform the general public at large that I, **Smt. Gowramma, D/O Late Muniyappa,** Aged about 76 years, Residing At Sarjapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, is also the joint owner of the 4 items of the properties i.e:

1. All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing **Sy. No. 123,** measuring 5 acres, 31 guntas, is bounded on:
East by: Land belongs to Venkataramanappa, West by : land belongs to Yamare Ramaiah, North by : Rajakaluve, South by : Land belongs to Yamare Venkatappa

2. All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing **Sy. No. 257,** measuring 0.17 guntas, is bounded on:
East by : Land belongs to Yamare Ramaiah, West by : Rajakaluve, North by: Land belongs to Subbarao, South by: Land belongs to Yamare Ramaiah

3. All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing **Sy. No. 103,** measuring 0.18 guntas, is bounded on:
East by: Land belongs to Doddaiah, West by: Land belongs to Veerappa's Reddy, North by : Land belongs to Nallappa, South by: Land belongs to Veerappa

4. All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Kaneshumari **No. 37/43/41** measuring East to West 59 feet and North to South 27 feet and on that 5 feet common passage, is bounded on:
East by: Narayana shetty's house, West by: H.A.L. Krishnappa's house, North by: Yellappa's house, South by: Chikka Bojanna's house

All schedule properties are situated at Sarjapura Village and Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District. I further inform the general public that I'm the Plaintiff in the suit in **O.S No. 871/2008** on the file of the Honourable court of Additional Senior Civil Judge and JMFC at Anekal and the knowledge that some people (the parties in the suit and others) are trying to deal/sell/convey /alienate create charge over the said property. Hence, public are hereby cautioned that anybody dealing with the aforesaid property shall be doing it at their own risk and consequence and same will not be binding on me or over the schedule property.

Adv. C.V. Siju,
M/s. Law Links Advocates,
No-115 1" floor, Richmond towers, Richmond Road, Bengaluru-560025
Mob: 9845062318/9902062318
Email: advcvsiju@gmail.com

ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION-2025 (OJEE-2025)

No: OJEE / 741 ***Date : 21.01.2025***

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE TO TENDER ON ONLINE EXAMINATION (COMPUTER BASED TEST)

(Ref. OJEE/735, dated 08.01.2025)

With reference to our tender advertisement, vide OJEE / 735 dated 08.01.2025, there are amendments to certain clauses/ points of the tender document ref no: OJEE/737/08/01/2025. Hence, all the concerned clauses / points may be read as per the amendment.

For details, please visit our websites **(www.ojee.nic.in/ www.odishajee.com).**

Sd/-
CHAIRMAN, OJEE

h-17

OIPR-44026/11/0013/2425

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only Through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered agencies for the following works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & Time for submission of tender	Date and time for opening of tender
1	South East-2	BWSSB/EE(SE-2)/TO/PB/2745/2024-25 Date: 20.01.2025 **(Call-2)**	₹ 8,46,538/- / ₹ 21,170/-	30.01.2025 upto 4:00 pm	03.02.2025 after 4:30 pm
2		BWSSB/EE(SE-2)/TO/PB/2747/2024-25 Date: 20.01.2025 **(Reserved for SC Category) (Call-2)**	₹ 35,69,950/- / ₹ 35,700/-		
3		BWSSB/EE(SE-2)/TO/PB/2749/2024-25 Date: 20.01.2025 **(Reserved for SC Category) (Call-2)**	₹ 17,80,052/- / ₹ 22,260/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-East-2)

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

4	West-2	BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/4705/2024-25 Date: 20.01.2025 **(Call-4)**	₹ 23,62,359/- / ₹ 47,300/-	30.01.2025 upto 3:00 pm	01.02.2025 after 3:00 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-2)

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & Quality Assurance), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

5	DE & PS	BWSSB/EDEPSTE/AE/1040/2024-25 Date: 20.01.2025	₹ 52,16,628/- / ₹ 1,04,350/-	30.01.2025 upto 11:00 am	31.01.2025 after 11:15 am

Sd/- Executive Engineer (DE & PS)

Office of the Chief Engineer (Kaveri-O&M), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

6	Kaveri (O&M-2)	BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/2852/2024-25 Date: 21.01.2025 **(For Reserved Categories Only)**	₹ 56,08,006/- / ₹ 57,000/-	06.02.2025 upto 04:00 pm	07.02.2025 after 05:00 pm
7		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/2850/2024-25 Date: 21.01.2025 **(For Reserved Categories Only)**	₹ 48,18,082/- / ₹ 48,500/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer Kaveri (O&M-2)

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

8	Central	BWSSB/EEC/PB/3027/2024-25 Date: 21.01.2025 **(Call-2)**	₹ 11,47,613/- / ₹ 28,700/-	30.01.2025 upto 05:00 pm	31.01.2025 after 05:01 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Central)

9	North-1	BWSSB/EE(N)-1/TO/3453/2024-25 Date: 21.01.2025 **(Call-3)**	₹ 77,04,075/- / ₹ 1,54,500/-	29.01.2025 upto 05:00 pm	30.01.2025 after 05:30 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North-1)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/MIA/4510/2024-25

E-AUCTION Sale of Properties on 14.02.2025

Last date of EMD : 13.02.2025

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank — Finsinaz Syndicate — (A Government of India Undertaking) Head Office : Bangalore

ARM – I Branch, 2nd Floor, No. 86, Spencers Tower, M.g. Road, Bangalore – 560001. Ph No. : 080 25310066. E-Mail – cb2366@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described imovable propeties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical/Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM Branch-1,** Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **14.02.2025 at 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM,** through E-Auction under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

For details with regard to E-Auction & digital signature please contact the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited Helpdesk Number : 8291220220, Website: https://baanknet.com/**

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **13.02.2025 5.00 pm.**

(Rs. in lacs)

Sl.No.	Name and address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Description of the immovable assets	Total Dues Possession Type	a. Reserve Price b. EMD c. Incremental Bid	Inspection Date & Time
1.	**1. M/s Pegasi Spirits Pvt. Ltd.(Formerly known as 3 Aces Hospitality Pvt. Ltd.)** through its authorised representatives at Regd. Office - House No. 22, Road no. 62, Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi – 110026, Head Office – S K Arcade,, No.33/1, Doddakannali, Carmalaram Post, Sarjapura road, Bangalore – 560035. **2. Mr. Neeraj Kukreja (Director) S/o Jagdish Kukreja. 3. Mrs. Ritika Kukreja(Director) W/o Neeraj Kukreja** both 2 & 3 residing at Villa #151, Adarsh Palm Retreat, Bellandur, Bangalore – 560103. **4. Mr. Jagdish Kukreja (Guarantor) S/o Kaura Ram Kukreja. 5. Mrs. Pushpa Kukreja (Guarantor)** Both 4 & 5 residing at B 1801, Skylark Esta Hoodi, Whitefield, Bangalore - 560048.	Industrial shed at leasehold land of 3 acres and 40 guntas land in Sy.No 119 & Sy.No. 120 in the name of Chowda Reddy address of V Kallahalli, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-562125. Coordinates of the property. **Latitude- 12.9753186, Longitude- 77.6046092**	**Rs. 6,48,09,227.41** as on **20.01.2025** plus further interest and cost thereon	a) ₹ 124.20 b) ₹ 12.42 c) ₹ 1.00	**07.02.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM.** with Prior Appointment with The Authorized Officer
		Machineries and equipment's for Beer manufacturing kept at Sy. No. 119 and 120, V Kallahalli, Sarjapur Road, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-562125. Coordinates of the property. **Latitude- 12.9753186, Longitude- 77.6046092**		a) ₹ 62.00 b) ₹ 6.20 c) ₹ 1.00	
2.	**1. Kwikfix Hospitality Pvt Ltd,** Plot No. 8A, Attibele Industrial Area, Anekal, Bangalore-562107. **Also at** Plot No.120, Export Promational, Industrial Park (EPIP), Whitefield, Bangalore-560066. **2. Sri Manoj Thyagaraj S/o Thyagaraj K M,Shraddha Tulip,** A Block, AECS Layout, Kundanahalli, Whitefield,Bangalore-560066. **3. Mrs. Judy Sweena Kamal W/o Manoj Thyagaraj,** Shraddha Tulip, A Block, AECS Layout, Kundanahalli, Whitefield, Bangalore-560037. **4. Sri Thyagaraj K M, S/o Sri Muniswamappa,** No. 404, 5th Main, 5th Cross,1st Stage, 3rd Block, Bangalore North-560043. **5. Sri ChristpherJames Alphose S/o Sri Anthony Swamy,** T-3, Adharsha Hotel, 3rd Floor, 1st main, Gopala Reddy Layout, Bangalore-560043.	Residential flat No A-3, 3rd Floor of the apartment known as SRADDHA TULIP having super built up area of 2100 Sft. with one covered car parking space and 414 Sft. of UDS in landed property bearing converted Site no. 3, Mahadevapura CMC Katha no. 448, and converted site bearing nos. 4 & 5, Mahadevapura CMC Katha no. 449, situated at Jayaram Reddy Layout Kundalahalli Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk measuring 5040 Sft. standing in the name of Smt Judy Sweena Kamal. Value at Sanction: ₹. 151.60 Coordinates of the property. **Latitude- 12.57565N Longitude- 77.42460E**	**Rs. 13,07,29,036.06** as on **20.01.2025** plus further interest and cost thereon	a) ₹ 166.86 b) ₹ 16.69 c) ₹ 1.00	**07.02.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM.** with Prior Appointment with The Authorized Officer

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E - Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) Portal And may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.08025310066, 9627872626, 7483935007 94835 32366 And 9598559920 during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 22.01.2025

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Canara Bank

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Rajeswari Rajasekaran D/O Rajasekaran D, R/o No. 441/123, GF5, Elite Unique Apartment, Income Tax Layout, Sarjapur road, Bangalore - 560103, have changed the name of my daughter Nekanndrya J aged 14 years and she shall thereafter be known as Nekanndrya Estellen

I, SAVITA W/o Suresh Benakatti, R/a No-313, 4th E Cross, 3rd Main Road, H R B R Layout, Bengaluru-560043 have changed my name to Savita Suresh Benakatti vide affidavit dt: 21.01.02025 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, B'luru

I, CHANDRASEKHAR Madasi Balappa, S/o M B Thimmappa, R/a Flat No 515, Kamala Residence, S R S Road, Peenya, Bengaluru-560058 have changed my name to M B Chandra Shekar vide affidavit dt: 21.01.2025 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, B'luru.

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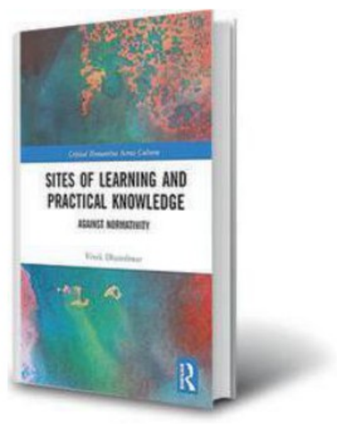

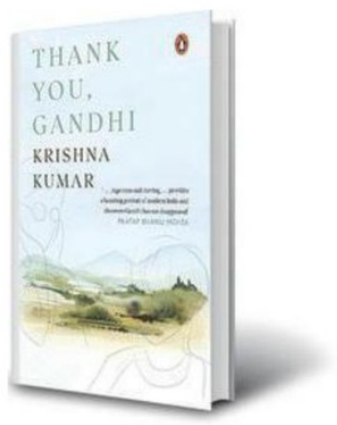

Guiding light: An illuminated installation of Mahatma Gandhi in Belagavi, Karnataka, on December 26, 2024. PTI

Gandhi and reflections on the idea of India, past and present

Two writers engage with Gandhi and his fertile world of ideas and actions to understand the forces that have shaped contemporary India. Both Krishna Kumar and Vivek Dhareshwar reveal to readers how Gandhi offers rich conceptual resources to reflect on the present

Shashikala Srinivasan

How did we come to be where we are today? What kind of forces have shaped us and brought us to our current moment in history? Two recent books, both published in 2024, are an attempt to answer precisely these questions. Despite being vastly different forms of engagement, Gandhi and his fertile world of actions and ideas is central to both.

The first book is *Thank You, Gandhi*, a labour of love, by the well-known educationist and thinker, Krishna Kumar. Though referred to as a novel, the book defies easy generic classification and is an innovative blend of fiction and non-fiction. It is a unique exploration of Gandhi's thoughts and the challenges of keeping his legacy alive in the current political landscape.

The story is largely told through the eyes of the central character Munna, or Viresh Pratap Singh, a brooding, thoughtful IAS officer and the narrator K's childhood friend. Before falling victim to COVID, Munna sends his unfinished manuscript to K and urges him to complete it and present it to a larger audience. Using this fictional device of reconstructing his friend's manuscript, Kumar gives us an evocative portrayal of the events of the last few decades and their disturbing, psychological impact on a generation brought up on the vision of India as dreamt by Gandhi, Nehru and others, an India that was "a modern yet kind, considerate nation." The author vividly portrays Munna's tragic descent into despair and desperation as he sees the more expansive idea of India that he is brought up on slowly collapse with the rise of the new dispensation. It is during these moments of darkness that Munna engages with Gandhi, walking alongside the philosopher-saint, in dialogue with him.

Thinking with, and against, Gandhi

A powerful socio-political commentary, the author captures the transformation of Bhopal from being a vibrant, plural culture to a discordant, divisive one. The Union Carbide tragedy of December 1984 that killed innumerable people in one night, the festering effect of Partition, the growth of Hindu nationalism and other significant shifts and events of the last few decades are delineated in a layered, compelling narrative. These are interwoven with Munna's engagement with Gandhi's rich idea of Hinduism, his guarded view of science, his notion of truth as a symbol for "the ingredients of morality" and not as mere "fidelity to facts" and his complex ideas on non-violence, swaraj and satyagraha. Sometimes thinking along with Gandhi and sometimes against him, grappling with some of his "quixotic" ideas in Hind Swaraj, these sections, where the past deftly merges with the present, make a fascinating read.

In a moment of acute self-reflexivity, Munna even asks Gandhi whether it was "all right to hate" those in power. Gandhi responds by asking him to instead "hate the system" and urges Munna to think about why truth for him had to be clubbed with non-violence. It is here that Munna seems to grasp that there is something inherent in modern politics that produces excessive identities and hatred. In one of his thoughtful musings, Munna recognises that Hindu nationalism is a child of colonialism. However, that Hindu nationalism is produced by secularism, escapes him.

Therapeutic engagement

In effect, engaging with Gandhi, for Munna, becomes almost therapeutic, a process of healing and preserving himself, and a way to continue to serve the world in the way he knows best. The narrative ends on a poignant note where K longs for Munna to hear him say "India is a great teacher, my friend, and it never fails to teach whoever tries to bend it." It is in Gandhi, the philosopher-healer, who virtually becomes the embodiment of India, that we have a reminder of India's distinctness and its plural ethos.

Gandhi is also central to our second book, Vivek Dhareshwar's *Sites of Learning and Practical Knowledge: Against Normativity*. A demanding but rewarding read, the book is a tenacious, philosophical enterprise that focuses on the loss of concepts and the destruction of a practical form of life caused by the "experience-occluding structures" of colonialism that persist till today.

Ethical learning

While not exhausted by Gandhi, Gandhi is vital to the book in illuminating the notion of a practical form of life and the idea of ethical learning that is salient to the book's argument. Describing India as a practical form of life that nourishes inquiry into living through various practices, making it possible "to discover experiential truth," the author argues that these varied, rich practices are destroyed by the secularised, moral norms of Western civilisation, brought in by colonialism.

It is precisely these modes of practical learning that enable one to attend to "how to live well" by reflecting on experience that Gandhi aims to restore. It is thus not surprising that it is through Gandhi that practical or experiential knowledge finds the most obvious expression in anti-colonial struggles and he is able to turn an elite freedom struggle into a mass movement.

One can make better sense now of Gandhi's criticism of modern medicine, economics, lawyers, history and representative democracy. Gandhi instead attempts to reconstruct several practical domains in an integrated way as alternative "sites of learning" – the sphere of health and dietetics, erotic, civic conduct and others – all of which are meant to nurture the "practices of the self."

Contrasting religion as inquiry with religion as identity, a distinction informing Gandhi's reflections on religion, the author shows what we take to be Hinduism are "traditions of reflecting on experience." It is immersion in these traditions that "allow Gandhi to diagnose and resist experience-occluding structures in different domains."

Despite their different formulations and diagnoses of our current predicament, both Krishna Kumar and Vivek Dhareshwar reveal to us how Gandhi and his world of ideas offer us rich conceptual resources to reflect on our present and invite us to engage with the question of how we came to be where we are as a society.

Dr. Shashikala Srinivasan is an independent scholar and author of 'Liberal Education and Its Discontents: The Crisis in the Indian University'

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order cancelling the provision of "citizenship by birth". Here is a quiz on citizenship laws from across the world

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1

This country grants citizenship only under exceptional circumstances. It is not based on blood or soil, and it is granted and revoked based on work and residence. If one is a cardinal residing in the country, or due to employment within the church, citizenship is granted. Name the country.

QUESTION 2

Citizenship of the Mercosur is granted to eligible citizens of which bloc? Which are the countries part of the bloc?

QUESTION 3

These citizens are the members of this international association of 56 member states. A vast majority of them are former territories of the British Empire from which it developed. In addition to voting and residency rights, many receive consular assistance from member countries. What is the group called?

QUESTION 4

This form of citizenship exists within a smaller administrative unit, like a state or province, within a nation, granting residents certain rights and participation in local governance, distinct from their national citizenship at the country level. An example of this is Aland, a small region within Finland. What is this citizenship called?

QUESTION 5

Nationality law can be broadly categorised into three principles. What are they?

Visual question:
In this image, the protest is related to which country?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This officer was one of the founding members of the All India Democratic Women's Association. **Ans: Capt. Lakshmi Sahgal**
2. The three INA officers who were court-martialled by the British. **Ans: Col. Prem Sahgal, Col. Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon, Major-General Shah Nawaz Khan**
3. Name the person who represented the three INA officers in the Red Fort trial. **Ans: Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**
4. This former British Army officer was captured by Japanese troops in World War II in the Malayan campaign and later on, founded the INA. **Ans: Gen. Mohan Singh**
5. This officer served as Governor of Andaman Islands during the Azad Hind Fauj's occupation. **Ans: Major General AD Loganathan**
Visual: Identify this INA veteran. **Ans: John Thivy**
Early Birds: ViswanadhaRao Batchu| Sumana Dutta| C. Saravanan| Barnali Biswas| Piyali Tuli

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"So the first rule is that we should prefer the familiar word to the far-fetched."

"Why?"

"So that others can understand what is said without any difficulty. If you write 'Apropos of the recent plague, I feel ...', the reader would worry about the meaning of 'apropos'."

"What does it mean?"

"It means 'with reference to, concerning'. Why not say 'concerning the recent plague, I feel..."

"So you say that using big words is of no avail."

"It is not advisable to use difficult words. Why use 'no avail' when you can say 'not useful, not effective'? Some don't say that they would take leave. They say they would like to avail themselves of leave for two days. Also please remember that it is 'avail oneself of something'. It is not 'avail of something'. He availed himself of the opportunity to go abroad. Sometimes when you don't understand a difficult word, you may respond in an unexpected way. When A said to B that B was being laconic, B slapped A. B thought that the word 'laconic' was a term of insult. A was taken aback and asked B why he had slapped him. B said he wouldn't take insults. A had to tell B that he had not insulted him and gave him the meaning of the word."

"What's the meaning of the word?"

" 'Laconic' means 'concise, precise in speech or writing'. Calvin Coolidge was one of the Presidents of America. He was noted for his laconic replies. When somebody said to Coolidge that he had taken a bet with another that he would get at least three words out of the President, Coolidge said, 'you lose'. It was he who said that the business of America is Business!"

"So, I should use familiar words."

"Yes. A plumber in America wrote to the Bureau of Standards saying that he found hydrochloric acid good for cleaning up clogged drains. The Bureau replied: 'The efficacy of hydrochloric acid is indisputable, but the corrosive residue is incompatible with metallic permanence.' The plumber replied that he was happy that the Bureau agreed with him. The Bureau wrote back: 'We cannot assume responsibility for the production of toxic and noxious residues with hydrochloric acid and suggest that you use an alternative procedure.' The plumber again replied that he was glad that the Board agreed with him. In despair, the Board screamed back: 'Don't use hydrochloric acid. It eats hell out of pipes.' The plumber got the message! The plumber couldn't understand the earlier language of the Bureau. Words like indisputable, residue, incompatible, noxious were difficult words for him. The Bureau used simple language finally to make the plumber understand their view."

"I understand."

"Once Dr. Johnson was explaining something to a friend. His friend said, 'Dr. Johnson, don't understand.' Dr. Johnson said, 'Sir, I can only provide you with arguments, not understanding'."

Published in The Hindu on October 25, 1994.

Word of the day

Parlay:
a series of wagers in which the winnings from one wager is used as a stake for the subsequent wagers; place a bet on

Synonyms: double up

Usage: *She hoped to parlay her football skills into a college scholarship.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/parlaypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈpɑːleɪ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

10 families lose their breadwinners in accident in Uttara Kannada dist.

All victims were aged below 45. Three out of four deceased in the Raichur mishap were students

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

A crane lifts a lorry that overturned at Yellapur in Uttara Kannada district on Wednesday. PTI

The multiutility vehicle that met with an accident near Sindhanur in Raichur district on Tuesday night.

The accident that occurred in the wee hours on Wednesday in Arabail Ghat near Yellapur in Uttara Kannada, leaving 10 dead, has left the town of Savanur in Haveri district in mourning. All the 10, aged below 45, were breadwinners of their families. Another 19 families are anxiously praying for the early recovery of their injured kin who have been admitted to different hospitals.

All of the dead and injured were vegetable and fruit vendors who were going to the Kumta weekly market. While one of the deceased was married four months ago, the wife of another deceased is four months pregnant.

The deceased were identified as Fayaz Imamsab Jamkhandi, 45; Waseem Mulla Mudageri, 25; Ijaz Mushtaq Mulla, 20; Sadiq Basha Paras, 30; Gulam Hussain Gudusab Javali; Imtiyaz Mohammed Jaffer Mudageri, 40; Altaf Jaffer Mandaki, 25; Jilani Abdul Gafar Jakati, 20; Aslam Babu Benni, 24, and Jalal Tara, 30, all residents of Savanur.

How accident occurred

According to Superintendent of Police Narayan, who visited the spot, the accident occurred around 4.30 a.m. when the driver lost control of the vehicle, resulting in the truck overturning and falling into a five-foot-deep trench. People were caught underneath. The police used a crane to lift the truck to pull out those caught underneath. By that time nine were dead and another passed away on the way to hospital, Mr. Narayan said.

MLA for Shiggaon Yasir Ahmed Khan Pathan rushed to the Yellapur hospital where the bodies were kept to help families. Later in the day, Deputy Commissioner of Uttara Kannada Laxmipriya handed over cheques for ₹3 lakh each to the family members of the deceased in the presence of Shivaram Hebbar, MLA, and Mr. Pathan.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah posted a message on X expressing shock over the accident and announced compensation. He also made an appeal to the public to drive cautiously. Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to X and said, "An ex gratia of ₹2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given ₹50,000."

Sindhanur accident

In another accident near Sindhanur in Raichur district, four including three students, died late on Tuesday night when their multi-utility vehicle overturned. They were all travelling to Anegundi in Koppal district from Mantralayam to take part in the three-day Aradhana of Saint Narahari Tirtha.

The students were studying in Sanskrit Vidyapeetha at Mantralayam in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh. The deceased were identified as Sujayendra, 22; Hayavadana, 18; Abhilash, 18, and the driver of the vehicle, Shiva, 24.

A case has been registered by the Sindhanur traffic police.

Rowdy sheeter held for murdering friend

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bagaluru police have arrested a 35-year-old rowdy sheeter for brutally killing his friend, over a financial row on January 10, carrying the body to Tamil Nadu and setting it on fire to destroy evidence.

The accused, Brijesh, who name figures in the list of rowdies at the Bharatinagar Police Station, had a business dealing with his friend Gunashekhar, a dog breeder by profession. Brijesh used to get gold-plated jewels, pledge them as gold ornaments at different shops through Gunashekhar and get money.

Recently during an audit, one of the shopkeepers realised that they had been cheated and demanded Gunashekhar to return the money.

Gunashekhar approached Brijesh and started demanding the money back. Unable to bear the pressure, Brijesh called Gunashekhar to a flat on the pretext of returning money and shot him using a country-made pistol. The accused later carried the body in a gunny bag, drove to Tamil Nadu and set the body on fire in a forest area in Pennagaram police station limits. A few passers-by noticed this and alerted the police who have registered a case of murder.

Meanwhile, as Gunashekhar did not return home, his wife checked near the apartment where he visited for work. With the help of police, she checked the CCTV camera footage and found Brijesh carrying the body in a gunny bag.

The Bagaluru police, who had registered a missing complaint, converted it into a murder case and tracked down Brijesh near Amritsar in Punjab.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, JAN. 23
RISE 06:46 SET 18:16
RISE 01:09 SET 12:50

FRIDAY, JAN. 24
RISE 06:46 SET 18:17
RISE 02:00 SET 13:34

SATURDAY, JAN. 25
RISE 06:46 SET 18:17
RISE 02:53 SET 14:22

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	28	20
Mysuru	28	16
Bengaluru	29	15

Bengaluru Today
28°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum to Tender Notice No. 02/2025
Date: 17-01-2024

In the above mentioned Tender Notice Advertisement published on 22-01-2025 the Tender Notice date is wrongly published as 17-01-2024 **Instead of 17-01-2025**. There is no other changes in the Tender Notice.

Principal Chief Materials Manager
Hubballi

Department of Health & Family Welfare
KARNATAKA STATE AIDS PREVENTION SOCIETY
Arogy Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560023. Tel: 080-29557021
E-mail: pdksaps@gmail.com

No. KSAPS/PRC/14/2024-25 **Dated: 21/01/2025**

Invitation for Short term Tender (Two cover) (Call-2) through e-Procurement

Short Term Tenders (Two cover) (Call-2) are invited for supply of Phlebotomy requirements to ICTC Centeres (Nitril gloves & Tourniquate) under E-procurement System. Details are available at e-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Last date for submission of Tender on **01/02/2025 up to 5.30 pm**.

Sd/- Project Director
Karnataka State AIDs Prevention Society
Bangalore

DIPR/CP/4500/AKAR/2024-25

UNIVERSITY OF HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES, BAGALKOT.
Office of the Registrar, Udyanagiri, Navanagar
Bagalkot - 587104, Karnataka Ph.: 08354-230276/278/280,
E-mail: registrar@uhsbagalkot.edu.in

No. : R/UHSB/Convocation-XIV/1573/2024-25 **Date : 21-01-2025**

NOTIFICATION

The 14th Annual Convocation of the University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot will be held during the first fortnight of **June 2025. Candidates who have completed all the requirements for Award of Graduate and Post-Graduate Degrees as on 28-02-2025 are eligible to receive their Degrees during the Convocation either "IN PERSON" or "IN ABSENTIA".**

The Last Date for Submission of filled in Application is 28-02-2025. The detailed Convocation Notification, Application Form, Fee Challan & other details are available on University Website : https://uhsbagalkot.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Registrar,
U.H.S., Bagalkot.

DIPR/Bagalkot/439/Manipal/2024-25

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CENTRAL (R&B) CIRCLE , BHUBANESWAR.
Mail i.d. : seccbbsr@gmail.com

E-procurement Tender Call Notice No.16 of 2024-25

No.240 (Estg.) Bhubaneswar the 20th January-2025

The Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for one number Road work and Two number Drain works to be received in online bidding, double cover system for construction work as detailed in : **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website **from 5.00 P.M. of 22.01.2025 to 5.00 P.M of 05.02.2025**. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened **at 11.00 AM of 06.02.2025** in the Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**. Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.

Sd/- Er. M.K.Mahananda
Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar.

B-860 : OIPR-34156/11/0015/2425

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ
ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର
(ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ / ପୋଷ୍ଟ- ଆମ୍ବପୁଆ, ଆୟକର ଭବନ ନିକଟରେ, , ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର - ୭୬୦୦୧୧, ଗଞ୍ଜାମ, ଓଡିଶା

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(At/Po :- Ambapua, Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011. Ganjam, Odisha)
(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com; Tel No.:-0680-2404287)

E-Mail / E-despatch

No. e-tender //166 // RWC// BAM// Dated. 20.01.25

1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Online Tender / 22-2024-25/BPR

1) **The partial modification of Road works under MMSY-TRIP (Balance Work) vide above identification has been made as follows.**

1.	Date of Availability of tender	:	**30.01.2025 to 14.02.2025 upto 5.30 PM** instead of 15.01.2025 to 29.01.2025 up to 5.30 PM
2.	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	:	**12.02.2025 at 5.30 PM** instead of 27.01.2025 at 5.30 PM
3.	Date of opening of Technical Bid	:	**15.02.2025 at 11.00 AM** instead of 31.01.2025 at 11.00 AM
4.	Date of opening of Financial Bid	:	**Will be intimated later on**

All other contents will remain unchanged.

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur

O-1311 : OIPR-25071/11/0044/2425

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, साहेबगंज।
अति अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई– पुनर्निविदा सूचना संख्या – RDD/SD/SAHIBGANJ /08/4th call/2024-25 Gr1

1.कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:

क्र० सं०/ ग्रुप सं0	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	साहेबगंज जिला के बरहरवा प्रखण्ड अंतर्गत पंचायत हस्तीपाड़ा ग्राम छोटा चांदपुर मोतीउर रहमान के घर के पास के उच्च विद्यालय हस्तीपाड़ा मंजारूल के घर के पास गुमानी नदी पर उच्चस्तरीय पुल निर्माण।	**547.83800** लाख रूपये	10,96,000/- रूपये	10,000.00 रूपये	24 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 24.01.2025
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय– दिनांक 24.01.2025 से दिनांक 03.02.2025 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
4. ई–निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, साहेबगंज।
5. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय – 05.02.2025 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे
6. ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, साहेबगंज।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 9431347401 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, साहेबगंज।

PR 344924 Rural Development(24-25)D

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

No.IADB/ENGG/Outsource/ETND-EP-16/801/2024-25 Date: 22.01.2025

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB is inviting Request For Proposals (RFP) under two cover systems for providing manpower and security services on outsource for Executive Engineer & SLAO of KIADB Tumakuru as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic Procurement from eligible Bidders registered in State / Central Labour Department who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology. technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following service as per the schedule given below

Name of the Work : Providing Manpower and Security Services on Outsource basis to the Jurisdiction of Executive Engineer & SLAO of KIADB, Tumukuru Zone. (2nd Call).

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **03.02.2025** upto **4.30 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/4513/Zen/2023-24

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY
Sampige Road, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru – 560 012.
Website: http://cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea/
e-mail: keaugcet25@gmail.com

No. ED/KEA/ADMN/CR-02/2025-26 **Date: 22.01.2025**

NOTIFICATION

ADMISSION TO PROFESSIONAL COURSES IN THE STATE OF KARNATAKA FOR THE YEAR - 2025 -26

1. As per Rule 3, Rule 6(3) & Rule 7 of Karnataka Selection of Candidates for Admission to Government seats in Professional Educational Institutions Rules 2006 (Amendments) and pursuant to the directions of the Government, Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) is inviting applications from the eligible Karnataka candidates for **"Common Entrance Test-2025"** for the purpose of determining the eligibility / merit, for admission to the First year or First semester of full time courses for Government share of seats in Engineering, Technology, Naturopathy & Yoga, B. Pharma, 2nd year B.Pharma and Pharma-D, Agriculture courses (Farm Science), Veterinary and B.Sc. (Nursing) courses, in Government / University / Private Aided / Private Un-Aided Professional Educational Institutions in the State of Karnataka for the academic year 2025-26 as per the seat matrix to be notified by Government.
2. In order to become eligible to obtain admission through KEA to the above mentioned professional courses, a candidate must register for **CET-2025**, fill the application through online, pay the application fees, download the admission ticket and appear for the Common Entrance Test-2025 conducted by KEA, Bangalore. Online application is an application-cum-verification module. Hence, the candidates are advised to fill all the details carefully. After submission of application, details of the claims "Claim Certificate" will be printed in the application form.
3. In the claim certificate if it is printed as "Successfully Verified", then such candidates need not visit any office / college for verification. Verification slip can be downloaded from the KEA Website (after announcement of CET results) in due course.
4. In case in the claims certificate if it is printed as **"Claimed Verified or Claimed not Verified or not claimed"**, then such candidates have to compulsorily submit **CET-2025** application form along with all the relevant original documents at the college where they are studying 2nd PUC or 12th standard. College authorities will verify the originals based on claims certificate and approve the details through portal. Verification slip can be downloaded from the KEA Website (after announcement of CET results) in due course
5. Details of Subjects to appear in CET-2025 for admission to various Professional Courses

Sl. No.	For Admission to 1st Year	Subjects to appear in CET-2025
a	Engineering / Technology courses	Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics(PCM)
b	Farm Science courses i.e., [i.e., B.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture, B.Sc. (Hons) Sericulture, B.Sc. (Hons) Horticulture, B.Sc (Hons) Forestry, B.Tech (Bio-Technology), B.Sc.(Hons) Community Science, B.Tech (Agricultural Engineering), B.Tech (Food Technology), B.Tech (D. Tech), B.F.Sc (Fisheries), B.Sc. (Hons) Agri. Business Management]	Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Biology (PCMB)
c	Bachelor of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Naturopathy & Yoga and B.Sc. (Nursing)	Physics, Chemistry, Biology (PCB)
d	B-Pharma, 2nd Year B. Pharma, Pharma-D	PCM or PCB

6. **CANDIDATES TO APPEAR ENTRANCE EXAM FOR OTHER COURSES - 2025**

a	Medical, Dental and AYUSH	UGNEET	Candidates must compulsorily register for CET-2025, fill the application and pay the fees to become eligible to participate in the KEA counselling.
b	Architecture	NATA	
c	For admission to B.P.T., B.Sc. Allied Health Sciences, BPO courses - Selection is based on PU Marks		NO Entrance Exam – but they must compulsorily register for CET-2025 and fill the application and pay the fees to become eligible to participate in the counseling.

7. As per Government order No. MED 51 RGU 2023 dated 13-04-2023 for admission to B.Sc. (Nursing) courses, Karnataka and non-Karnataka candidates have to appear for Common Entrance Test conducted by KEA. The non-Karnataka candidates will not be eligible for admission to engineering stream courses through KEA and they will also be not eligible for reservation.
   Before registering through online for admission to any Professional courses in the state of Karnataka, applicants are hereby informed to read the Information Bulletin and understand the eligibility conditions, classification of seats (different types of category of seats) and eligibility to claim such seats.
   Eligibility: As per Rule 5(1) of Karnataka Selection of Candidates for Admission to Government seats in Professional Educational Institutions Rules 2006 (Amendments), No candidate shall be eligible for admission to Government Seats unless he is a citizen of India and satisfies any one of the eligibility conditions specified therein. The candidates who do not satisfy any of the Clauses / Eligibility Criteria are not eligible for admission to professional courses under Government quota seats through KEA. Eligibility for OCI / PIO candidates for Government seats shall be as per the directions of the Government.
8. UGCET-2025-Information Bulletin consisting of details about mode of submission of application through online, eligibility clauses, academic eligibility criteria etc will be hosted on the KEA Website for the information of the candidates. Candidates can download the same from KEA Website. Candidates have to apply online for admission to various Professional Courses through KEA.
9. Schedule for online application – payment of fees for CET-2025.

a	Commencement of Registration and filling of Application Online	**From 11:00 am on 23.01.2025**
b	Last date to fill the application online	**18.02.2025 up to 11:59 pm**
c	Last date to pay the application fees – online	**20.02.2025**
d	Downloading of Admission Ticket	**25.03.2025 onwards**

COMMON ENTRANCE TEST – 2025 TIME TABLE

Date	Day	Timings	Subject	Marks / Questions
16.04.2025	Wednesday	10.30 am – 11.50 am	Physics	60
		02.30 pm – 03.50 pm	Chemistry	60
17.04.2025	Thursday	10.30 am – 11.50 am	Mathematics	60
		02.30 pm – 03.50 pm	Biology	60
Kannada Language Test FOR HORANADU AND GADINADU KANNADIGA CANDIDATES at Bengaluru, Belagavi, Bijapura, Mangalore Districts only				
18.04.2025	Friday	10.30 am to 11.30 am	4th Standard level	50

NOTE:
1. The question papers of the Common Entrance Test-2025 will be based on the First and Second PUC syllabi prescribed by the Department of Pre-University Education of Karnataka State. Regarding the syllabus to be adopted for Common Entrance Test-2025, the subject experts of the Department of School Education (Pre-University) have reviewed the Syllabus of PCMB subjects adopted for the 1st and 2nd PUC classes in Karnataka state and the syllabus to be adopted for CET-2025 has been published on the KEA Website for the information of the students
2. *Candidates can clarify their doubts regarding filling of online application at their respective colleges in Karnataka.*

Sd/-
(H. Prasanna IAS),
Executive Director.

DIPR/CP/4521/2024-25

Website http://cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea/ e-mail: keaugcet25@gmail.com
Twitter-X: @KEA_KARNATAKA
KEA Helpline Nos.: 080-23 460 460 (Five Lines) 10.00 am to 6.00 pm (except General Holidays)

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Sriramulu expresses pain over BJP blaming him for Sandur bypoll defeat

The former Minister squarely blames Janardhana Reddy for creating an impression that he was responsible for the loss

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The woes of the BJP, which is gripped by internal tussle, appears to be only growing as former Minister and the party's Scheduled Tribe face B. Sriramulu publicly expressed pain over the party blaming him for the defeat in the recent Assembly bypoll from Sandur.

Mr. Sriramulu told a private TV channel on Wednesday that the bypoll issue came up at the party's State core committee meeting in Bengaluru on Tuesday where BJP national general secretary and State in-charge Radha Mohan Das Agarwal blamed him for the party's defeat in Sandur.

"I was very much pained by this as our State president B.Y. Vijayendra did not come to my defence though he was aware of all the developments and Mr. Agarwal would have only got the secondary reports as he is from north India. Hence, I told the meeting that I am ready to quit the party if it feels that I am useless and I am responsible for the Sandur defeat," Mr. Sriramulu said, recalling the incident.

B. Sriramulu and other leaders at the BJP core committee meeting in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

In the same breath he added that he was in no mood to quit the party and that he made the remark in anguish. "The BJP central leaders and a large number of State leaders as well as the RSS have fully supported me and I am confident that they will stand by me now too," he said.

However, he squarely blamed his one-time close friend and mining baron G. Janardhana Reddy for the misunderstanding and accused him of carrying tales against him to the leaders. Mr. Sriramulu repeatedly maintained that the episode had hurt him and even termed it as a "black spot" in his political career.

The episode that further demonstrates the "trust deficit" among some leaders has unfolded in the core committee meeting, which among other things, focused on quelling rebellion by taking everyone into confidence.

Continued bickering

Meanwhile, there was no sign of internal tussle in the party ending even after the core committee meeting as some of the rebel leaders, including MLA B.P. Harish, lashed out at Mr. Vijayendra in Davangere on Wednesday.

Stating that people of the State were waiting to see the BJP coming to power, Mr. Harish alleged that Mr. Vijayendra did not have the capacity to spearhead the party at this crucial moment.

He argued that somebody like (rebel leader) Basanagouda Patil Yatnal should replace Mr. Vijayendra. He predicted that some major changes were expected in the BJP State unit in the next two months.

He maintained that Mr. Vijayendra should have replied to allegations by the Congress that he could win the Assembly elections because of that party's help and that he had forged his father's signature when his father was the Chief Minister.

BYV supporters meet

Meanwhile, Mr. Vijayendra's supporters too met in Bengaluru under the leadership of former Minister M.P. Renukacharya. However, they maintained that theirs was not a rebellion as they had discussed about strengthening the party through a tour programme.

Efforts to safeguard women admirable but challenges faced by men cannot be overlooked: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Equality should be in its truest sense and not at the expense of either gender, the High Court of Karnataka has said while pointing out that "however admirable our efforts to safeguard women may be, we should not overlook the challenges encountered by men in society".

"Constitutionally, a female has got equal rights as that of a male. As a matter of fact, women are the primary victims in most situations, but that does not mean that men are not affected by the cruelty of women," the court observed.

Plea rejected

Therefore, the court said: "There is a necessity for a gender-neutral society. Such society aims at preventing separation of duties according to sex or gender. It will focus on equal treatment of men and women both in domestic affairs and work places." Justice Chillakur Sumalatha made the observations while rejecting a petition by a woman, a resident of Hosanagar taluk of Shivamogga district, who had sought direction from the High Court to transfer a matrimonial case, filed by her husband seeking dissolution of marriage, to her town from a civil court in N.R. Pura taluk of Chikkamagaluru district.

'There is a necessity for a gender-neutral society. It prevents separation of duties according to sex or gender'

"Only because the transfer petition is moved by a woman, transfer of the case as sought for cannot be effected. All the attending facts and circumstances have to be looked into," the High Court said, rejecting her plea.

The High Court said that inconvenience projected by the petitioner-wife to attend the court at N.R. Pura will not be greater than the inconvenience that will be faced by her husband if the case is transferred to the wife's town.

Children with father

Noticing that the couple have two children, aged nine and seven, the High Court said the children were residing with their father, who is taking care of them after the dispute rose between the couple.

Taking note of the claim that he has to cook, feed, and send the children to school before attending the court proceedings, the High Court said transfer of the case would cause more inconvenience to the man.

Ashok blames power tussle for State skipping Davos summit

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok has sought to link Karnataka not participating in the summit of the World Economic Forum at Davos with the power tussle in the government.

Mr. Ashok said on X: "When the Chief Ministers of all major States are in Davos making a strong pitch for investments, neither Chief Minister Siddaramaiah nor his Cabinet colleagues are interested in representing the State at an important world stage. Thanks to the mysterious power-sharing agreement, the Chief Minister and his Cabinet are engrossed in dirty power politics, which has paralysed Karnataka's economy and governance," he said.

However, sources in the government maintained that Karnataka had decided to stay away from the Davos event as the State itself was holding a Global Investors' Meet in the second week of February to woo investors.

Later, addressing media persons in Tumakuru district, Mr. Ashok alleged that the Congress government was planning to raise a loan of over ₹1 lakh crore in the forthcoming State Budget too as it did in the previous Budget.

In gratitude

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar being felicitated by Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy in Bengaluru on Wednesday for approving a farm university in Mandya and for waiving ₹52 crore worth of electricity dues of Mysore Sugar Company. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Coffee board, National Livelihood Mission to train one lakh women to become entrepreneurs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Coffee Board of India, in partnership with the National Livelihood Mission in Karnataka, has initiated a project to empower 1,00,000 women members of National Livelihood Mission Self-Help Groups (SHGs) across the State on coffee brewing techniques and rural cafe management.

To execute the programme, an MoU was signed between K.G. Jagadeesha, CEO and Secretary, Coffee Board, and P.I. Sreevidya, Mission Director of National Livelihood Mission. This was mainly aimed to facilitate the establishment of rural and urban cafes dedicated to offering an authentic filter coffee experience, said the coffee board on Wednesday.

Women of self-help groups will be trained in coffee brewing techniques and rural cafe management

"The coffee board, in collaboration with subject matter experts and in-house specialists, will work along with the Atal Incubation Centre of Coffee Board, the implementing and monitoring partner, to ensure impactful outcomes," said Mr. Jagadeesha. Ms. Sreevidya added: "This coffee micro entrepreneurial project will provide a new window of opportunities to women empowerment."

According to the coffee board, the project will be implemented in two phases. Initially, 400 women identified by NLM will be trained to become master trainers at the coffee board's head office in Bengaluru, who in the second phase will subsequently upskill other women at taluk and hobli levels. The initiative aims to establish 2,500 coffee kiosks and train one lakh women from SHGs to become successful coffee entrepreneurs.

The State government allocated ₹25 crore in its 2024-25 State budget to train one lakh women from NLM SHGs as coffee entrepreneurs. "By supporting potential and existing entrepreneurs, it promotes gender equality, reduces poverty, and fosters opportunities for marginalised women," Mr. Jagadeesha said.

Patil holds meetings with firms in Delhi ahead of investors' meet

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A delegation led by Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil held a series of roadshows in Delhi on Wednesday, engaging with industry leaders to explore investment opportunities ahead of the Global Investors' Meet: Invest Karnataka 2025, in Bengaluru in February.

"These discussions aim to explore investment opportunities, foster strategic partnerships, and strengthen Karnataka's position as a hub for innovation-driven industries," said a release. Key industry participants included senior representatives from companies such as ITC Ltd., ReNew Power, Samvardhana Motherson International Ltd., Havells, KEI Industries, Dalmia, and Flexibus. Mr. Patil has extended a formal invitation to all the companies to participate in the Global Investors' Meet.

The roadshows positioned 'Invest Karnataka 2025' as a premier summit for innovation, sustainability, and inclusive growth, said the release. Themed "Reimagining Growth", the event will showcase advancements across sectors such as electronics, healthcare, space technology, and advanced manufacturing.

Foster partnerships

"With dedicated country pavilions and exclusive sessions, the meet will foster international partnerships while celebrating Karnataka's rich cultural heritage, presenting a comprehensive vision of the state's vibrant and dynamic ecosystem," the release said.

Selvakumar S., Principal Secretary, Department of Commerce and Industries, and Gunjan Krishna, Commissioner for Industrial Development and Director, Department of Commerce and Industries, and were present.

Union Minister of Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy with Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil in New Delhi on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

L.K. Atheeq given extension

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has extended the services of Additional Chief Secretary L.K. Ateeq, who is set to retire on January 31.

Mr. Atheeq has been appointed Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister.

He is currently Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister and also ACS, Finance Department.

Atal Virasat conventions from Feb. 15

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP has decided to celebrate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee by holding a State-level campaign apart from the Atal Virasat conventions at the district-level from February 15.

At a press conference in Bengaluru on Wednesday, C. Ashwath Narayan, BJP MLA, said committees had been constituted to monitor the programmes.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
TAMIL NADU FOREST DEPARTMENT
Thanjavur Forest Division, Pillaiyarpatti Forest Campus,
Trichy Main Road, Thanjavur - 613 403.

Invitation for Bids No: IN – TNSHORE – 435341 – CW – RFB

Project Title: Tamil Nadu: Strengthening Coastal Resilience and the Economy Project (TN-SHORE) [Project ID No. P180932].

Contract Title: Construction of International Dugong Conservation Centre at Manora, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu

The District Forest Officer, Thanjavur Forest Division on behalf of Tamil Nadu Forest Department ("the Employer") invites bids from eligible bidders for the work named above. Bids are invited under Open Competitive Bidding (OCB) - National Open Competitive Procurement. Detailed Notice of Invitation for Bids (IFB) and the Bid document for above work would be available at **www.tntenders.gov.in** starting from **24.01.2025** at **11.00 hours.** Deadline for bid submission is **15:00 hours** on **07.02.2025.** All required information are provided in the bid document.

1. Offline Pre-bid Meeting will be held at **11:00 hours** on **28.01.2025.** All the prospective bidders are advised to participate in the Pre-bid meeting.
2. Any addendum, clarification to the bidder's queries and corrigendum etc. will be published on the **www.tntenders.gov.in** website and will not be published in Newspapers.
3. Bidders may contact District Forest Officer, Thanjavur Forest Division for any other information on bidding process.

District Forest Officer,
Thanjavur Forest Division

DIPR/ 215 /TENDER/2025

ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸರಬರಾಜು ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಮ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ)
ನಿಗಮ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಖರೀದಿ ಶಾಖೆ
ಚಾವಿಸನಿನಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು–570017
Telephone No: 9448994705

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, Procurement Section, CESC, Mysuru-570017, Website: www.cescmysore.org
E-mail ID: gmpurc@cescmysore.org
Company Identity Number[CIN]: U40109KA2004SGC035177

CESC/GM(P)/DGM(P)/AGM(P-2)/2024-25/25215 **Date : 16.01.2025**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

CESC, Mysore invites Short Term Tenders from eligible bidders for Services as mentioned below:

Sl No.	Particulars	Enquiry no. / Date
1	Providing motor vehicle service along with driver on monthly rental basis to Officers of **Corporate Office CESC & Mysore Zonal Office,** CESC Mysore.	C2-6028/ 16-01-2025
2	Providing motor vehicle service with driver on monthly rental basis to Officers of **Chamarajanagara-Kodagu Circle** jurisdiction.	C2-6029/ 16-01-2025
3	Providing motor vehicle service with driver on monthly rental basis to Officers of **Hassan Zone** Jurisdiction	C2-6030/ 16-01-2025

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 21-01-2025. For clarification contact help desk **+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777** or e-mail address **support@eprochelpdesk.com**.
For Electricity related complaints Call: 1912

Sd/- General Manager (Procurement),
CESC, Mysuru

DIPR/DDMYS/1158/KSMCA/787/2024-25

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

MR V.SUBRAMANIAM Ex–LIC,Bangalore
Ever in our Hearts Mrs.Bhagyam Subramaniam,Sanjay, Ambika, Ajay, Renu, Arjun, Mira, Anna, Joey & Mali

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

In loving memory of
George Thomas
DOB: 08.05.1942 - DOD: 23.01.2020
Your memory is eternal
and you are forever in our hearts.
We miss you so much!
Fondly remembered by
FAMILY MEMBERS

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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City start-up hopes to make immunotherapy for cancer more affordable, off-the-shelf

A relatively nascent field of cancer research, it was only in 2020 that the Indian government approved the first immunotherapy drug in India

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

One challenge is the difficulty in culturing these cells outside the body. But the team now has a patent for the technology they developed for doing the same. Using this, one NK cell can grow 600 to 1,000 times over a 15-day period, says Lalit Pai, CEO at NKure. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Nkure team. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The number of cancer cases being diagnosed in India every year is a whopping 14 lakhs. Immunotherapy research and treatment in the country has come a long way making it an effective treatment for certain types of cancer. However, the prohibitively high costs associated with it have made the treatment inaccessible for a large population.

NKure Therapeutics, a Bengaluru-based cell and gene therapy start-up, is trying to address this problem by working on immunotherapy solutions that they say could potentially provide off-the-shelf affordable alternatives in cancer care.

First step

A relatively nascent field of cancer research, it was only as recent as 2020 when the Indian government approved the first immunotherapy drug in India. Immunotherapies like CAR-T cell therapy, where T cells (a type of white blood cell or immune cell that helps the immune system) are used to fight cancer, have seen advancements, but pose certain challenges in terms of side effects as well as affordability.

NKure attempts to address this by using a different set of immune cells knows as Natural Killer cells or NK cells.

"In CAR-T therapy, right now, they take the blood from a patient, genetically modify the T cell, and then give it back to the patient. This is used for some specific lymphomas and the whole process takes 8 to 10 days," explains Lalit Pai, CEO at NKure.

However, given the treatment is specifically engineered for one person, the cost shoots up to about ₹1 crore.

"While the efficacy is very good, given the high costs associated with it, it cannot become mainstream. We need to go down a different pathway to get more affordability in immunotherapy," says Pai. "The hypothesis that we are working on is to get affordable immunotherapy to India."

The donor alternative

Instead of taking the blood from a patient, the NKure team explores the possibility of extracting it from healthy donors. Each person could donate for around 100 patients, helping to make the solution off-the-shelf and significantly bringing down the costs to around ₹ 10-15 lakhs, say the people behind the initiative.

If the first part of the research is about affordability, the second is about efficacy of the solution. This depends on rightly identifying the type of immune cell to be used from the extracted blood and the kind of genetic modification to do on it.

"We have focused on NK cells. It is of a smaller proportion - typically 5-15% of the white blood cells. Whereas the T cell is around 70%. So obviously everyone first looked at T cells, but now people are looking at the other subgroups," Pai notes.

But why NK cells? "NK is a much more active cell. It has a way of identifying body-versus-non-body and self-versus-non-self, and it destroys the non-self. So, it doesn't really require targeting," he explains.

Nkure culture lab. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

One challenge is the difficulty in culturing these cells outside the body. But the team now has a patent for the technology they developed for doing the same. Using this, one NK cell can grow 600 to 1,000 times over a 15-day period, according to Pai.

These cells can then be cryopreserved and thawed when needed without loss of functionality, he says.

While developing genetically modified NK cells from healthy doses helps to make the treatment more affordable and off the shelf, Pai admits that there are certain flipsides to it. A major one is rejection of the cells by the patient's body.

"If you are giving back a patient's blood cells to the same body, you don't expect too much rejection. But when you are giving the blood cells of a healthy person, it could be perceived as foreign by the patient's body. You need to see how the body reacts to it, whether the cells are creating any safety issues and so on."

That said, Renjitha Gopurrapilly, Chief Scientist at NKure, points out that the side effects like a Cytokine storm (a severe immune reaction in which the body releases too many cytokines - a type of protein - into the blood abruptly) that one may face during the administration of T-cells into the body do not happen with NK cells and hence it's a "safer therapy."

While there are no marketed NK cell therapies by which one could determine the efficiency of the treatment, studies so far point in that direction, says Gopurrapilli.

What studies indicate

"It is shown to be as effective (as CAR-T cell therapy). There's no marketed NK cell therapy anywhere in the world yet. Phase-2 trials have been going on in some places. But there are multiple institutes in the U.S. for example who have conducted credible studies showing the effectiveness of the therapy," she notes.

While the NKure team's current research focuses on developing NK cell therapies that can fight lymphoma, they also have an in-licensed technology to fight colon cancer. The rights for the latter have been purchased from a Taiwanese firm.

Gopurrapilly explains the difference between the two.

"In the in-licensed product, we take the patient's own blood, develop NK cells from it and put it back into the patient every two weeks or three weeks. When it comes to our own product, we are trying to make an allogenic off-the shelf product from healthy dose and engineer it to put it in the CAR for targeting mechanism."

(Chimeric Antigen Receptor or CAR helps the immune cells - be it NK cells or T cells - to target the cancer cell surfaces.)

"Our aspiration is to get approval for the phase-two study of the in-licensed technology, which, in two years' time we hope to take to market."

"And for our own product, we hope to get approval for phase-one study," says Pai.

Mindful scaling

Founded by regenerative medicine expert Dr. Mahendra Rao about two years ago, NKure has tall ambitions and hopes to bring down the cost of immunotherapy to one tenth of what's in the market currently. They believe that with the advancement of technology the price will further reduce.

"We also need to scale up without compromising on the function. We don't want to keep on growing the NK cells forever or bring it to a number where the cytotoxicity or the functionality is compromised. The ideal expectation would be to develop the least number of cells in in-vitro condition that would efficiently eradicate the tumour. That's what we have been working on," Gopurrapilly notes.

Would that pose a challenge to the ambitions of introducing it as an off-the-shelf product?

"It's a question of logistics and how we scale the product," answers Pai.

"The manufacturing will be centralized. It will take 15 days to make the product from a healthy dose and then we can cryopreserve it. This way, we can build a stock at a central place and distribute it when required. We'll have to do some demand forecasting for various centres and keep stock accordingly."

According to him, existing CAR-T cell therapy takes about two weeks of hospitalisation which adds to the expenses. NKure, on the other hand, aims to offer its NK-cell therapy as a daycare procedure involving an IV of about four hours.

With more studies pointing to the ability of genetically modified NK cells to treat even other serious conditions such as Parkinsons, the team plans to venture into such areas after the completion of the ongoing research.

"The hope is that, with the skill sets that we are building, we will be able to apply this to other cells and for other genetic modifications," Pai notes.

Aasakta Kalamanch returns to Bengaluru with Jennifer Haley's sci-fi thriller, The Nether

The play explores the boundaries between imagination and morality with all its complexities

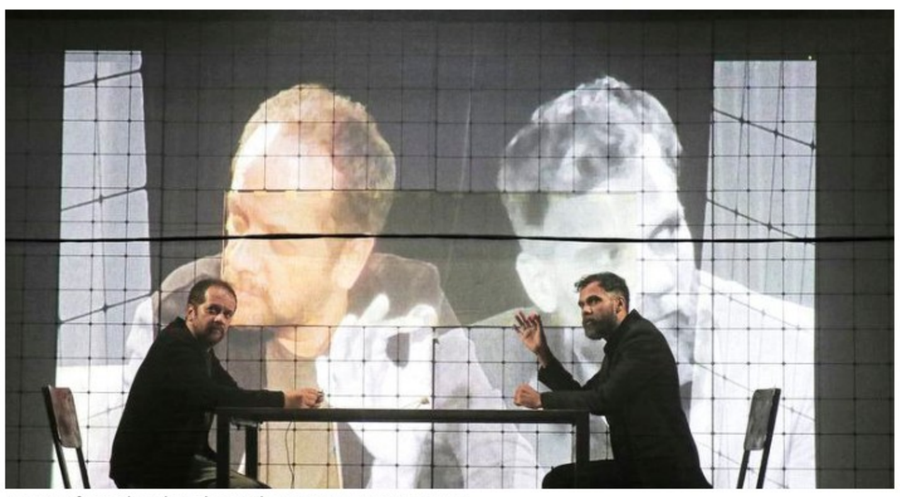
Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Pune's popular theatre troupe Aasakta Kalamanch, founded in 2003, is back in Bengaluru this week with the play *The Nether*, on January 24 and 25 at Ranga Shankara, J.P. Nagar.

Directed by Mohit Takalkar, according to the synopsis of the play, *The Nether* is a virtual wonderland that provides total sensory immersion. The play talks about how the internet has evolved into *The Nether*, a vast network of virtual reality realms, where one logs in, chooses an identity, and indulges their every desire.

Into dark corners

But when a young detective uncovers a disturbing brand of entertainment, she triggers an interrogation into the darkest corners of the imagination. The play delves into how the users discover they have made emotional attachments in their realm that blinds them to the greater questions of ethical behavior, both in the imagination and the outside world.



A scene from the play The Nether. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Winner of the 2012 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize written by Jennifer Haley, *The Nether* is both a serpentine crime drama and haunting sci-fi thriller that explores the consequences of living out one's private dreams.

Asked what drew Mohit to direct Jennifer Haley's *The Nether,* he said when he had read the play back in 2015 and found it was exciting, challenging and disturbing at the same time.

"I had attempted to do this play earlier but somehow could not stage it. Jennifer starts the play with a simple instruction of which time period the play is set in, and she says 'time-soon', and this time seemed like an impending Domb set on us. It made the play sharper for me. The debate that she puts in the play about morality, ethics, legitimising morbid imagination and more throughout the play, is what drew me toward directing the play," he added.

The play explores the boundaries between imagination and morality. On asked how the director approached translating these complex themes to the stage, he said the contemporary digital culture that is limited to a layman is just the tip of the iceberg. Mohit said that it was a great experience mounting this play.

Indian context

"When we started the rehearsals we had thought of adapting it to the Indian context, change the character names and bring in more Indian references. But we realised that it was going to be futile, the world has shrunk after the pandemic everyone is on the same page when it comes to these areas and it is all so universal now. We realised that anyone can relate to it and we went ahead with what is written," he said.

"The rehearsals are where we work with actors, and fortunately I had a great set of talented actors with me. But to put up this play that has hardly any stage directions, and to showcase The Nether world, the team of designers that I had was very enriching. It still feels insufficient for such a play, the more you do it, the more you want. There was no limit to it. We had references from the Victorian era and what people would be wearing 20 years from now, the colours, the details and more, which was a great learning," he added.

With scenography by Sarthak Narula and Saras Kumar, costumes by Shilpi Agarwal the play is performed by Neil Bhoopalam, Vivek Madan, Rytasha Rathore, Prajesh Kashyap and Anjali Negi. Performed in English and open to audiences over the age of 18, tickets for the shows are available at the Ranga Shankar box-office and on BookMyShow.

The play will be performed on January 24 at 7.30 p.m., and on January 25 at 3.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 23, 1975

Students Gherao Karnataka PCC President

Dharwar, Jan, 22: Mr. K H Patil KPCC President, was gheraoed by college students shouting slogans supporting Mr. J. P. Narayan at Karnataka College, a constituent college of the Karnataka University here today. In the incident which took place as Mr. Patil came out of the function where he had earlier unveiled a bust of Swami Vivekananda, Mr. Patil was surrounded by students. Stones and sandals were hurled. Somebody pulled down the Gandhi cap worn by Mr. Patil. Timely arrival of Mr. Patil's car averted an ugly turn in the situation. As Mr Patil's car left stones were thrown at it.

Minister Wants Speedy Rural Development

Bangalore, Jan, 22: The Minister for Rural Development and Social Welfare today asked the offices to work with a spirit to implement the various schemes to ameliorate the living conditions of weaker sections of society.

Mr. N. Rachiah, who was addressing the first meeting of the committee for review of rural development and other programmes here today hoped that periodical meetings would help to remove bottlenecks, if any, in the speedy implementation of the progressive measures taken up by the Government for improving the economic conditions of the weaker sections, particularly in rural areas.

A melodious tribute to RD Burman

Ahead of fundraising concert Yaad Aa Rahi Hai – Pancham Forever, veteran guitarist Sunil Kaushik talks of the joys and trepidations of working with RD Burman

Shilpa Anandraj

Timeless symphonies (clockwise from far left) Sunil Kaushik, with RD Burman and (below) the late Rotarian R Shankar Narayan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sunil Kaushik, a veteran guitarist from Mumbai, will perform in Bengaluru as part of the Rotary Bangalore Aagneya's annual concert, Yaad Aa Rahi Hai - Pancham Forever. For those who are struggling to place him, here is a clue – he is the man who played the guitar on the RD Burman composition, 'Neele Neele Ambar Par', sung by Kishore Kumar in the 1983 film, *Kalaakaar*.

Sunil has also had a long musical stint with Burman, or Pancham as he was affectionately called, and has an extensive body of work in the world of Hindi films. Sunil went on to create a niche in the music industry and today his name is synonymous with the title track of the cartoon series, *Chota Bheem*, for which he also composes the background score.

Over a call from Mumbai on his way to a studio to record music for *Chota Bheem,* the veteran says he is looking forward to performing in Bengaluru for the annual fundraiser. Every year, Rotary Bangalore Aagneya, conducts an RD Burman musical concert to raise funds for its projects, which mainly focuses on education.

The annual concert is the brainchild of the late rotarian, R Shankar Narayan, who passed away in December 2023. This year's concert is a tribute to Shankar and the late drummer, Franco Vaz, who has had a long association with Burman and performed in Bengaluru at many of Aagneya concerts.

Talking to Sunil is like listening to old melodies on a radio as the musician often breaks into tunes with every song he recalls or every note of Burman he explains. "Coming to Bengaluru is like coming to my family. The credit for this feeling goes to Shankar, who always made us feel so loved and cared for. He was a dear friend and bonded over music and we were fans of Pancham da."

Sunil took to playing the guitar because his elder brother, the late Satish Kaushik, played it. "I would also listen to Pancham Da's songs and dream of getting a chance to work with him."

Taking to music was not tough as his father, JP Kaushik, started his career in KA Abbas' film *Shehar Aur Sapna*. "The ambience at home was just music. My father played many musical instruments and was also a student of Ali Akbar Khan." Sunil has learnt to play the drums and congo. "I was a good friend of Kesri Lord (arranger, conductor and composer) in the late '70s. Kesri worked extensively with Pancham and one day, Pacham asked Kesri to do the background score for the film *Shalimar* (1978)."

That was when Kesri asked Sunil to come on board as the guitarist. "The first song I played for was the title track sung by Ashaji (Bhonsle), 'Mera Pyaar Shalimar'," Sunil says breaking into song, interrupted by traffic snarls and honks.

"I thought that was it and went back to my routine work. Post the release of *Shalimar,* Pancham Da personally asked me to join his band for recordings. "

Music is like fashion, Sunil says. "It changes with time and people. Its root, however, always remains a good melody, which is its soul."

While working with Burman, Sunil says he would pray before stepping out of his house. "I would pray that I not be given or asked to play something that I would not be able to as that would leave me embarrassed. Though Pancham Da always created a friendly environment for all of us, I would get nervous if I had to play solo during a recording. I find the song 'Neele Neele Ambar par' one of my most challenging works to date."

Yaad Aa Rahi Hai - Pancham Forever will feature artistes including Kishore Sodha (trumpet), Raj Sodha (alto sax and Western flute), Shyamraj (saxophone) and Sunil Kaushik (guitar), all of whom have worked with Pancham.

They will be supported by an orchestra helmed by Srinivas Achar and his team from Bengaluru with singers including Divya Raghavan, Shruti Bhide, Ujjayinee Roy, Aditya Vittal, Kalwinder Singh and Narssimhan Kannan.

The concert is on January 25, at Prestige Srihari Khoday Centre for Performing Arts, Konankunte Cross, Kanakapura Road, at 6pm. Tickets on BookMyShow or 9886040086.

Helping hand
Parthasarathy Sudarsanam, Director - Public Image, of Rotary Bangalore Aagneya says, "During the pandemic, we launched a project called Gurudakshine, where we provided financial assistance to families of teachers who lost their lives due to COVID-19. We are also using our events to pay a tribute to our member R Shankar Narayan. His contribution has been immense. He was a dedicated rotarian, passionate music lover and tireless advocate for underprivileged children. A sports enthusiast, especially cricket, Shankar was also an integral part of the KSCA's cultural committee. With this concert, we celebrate his life, legacy, and service to humanity. His memory continues to inspire us to make a difference in the lives of those around us. Had he been here, I would not even have taken the effort to be a spokesperson as he always took care of everything for everyone."

CITYBEATS

Seamless borders

JANUARY 26
As part of the 76th Republic Day celebrations of India, Suzy Q has launched a menu that showcases flavours from every corner of India. The aim is to honour the unity in the diversity of Indian cuisine, besides paying tribute to India's culinary heritage. There will also be live music. *On at Suzy Q, Queens Road. Call 47250088 to book your table.*

Creating hiss-tory

JANUARY 29
As part of the Year of the Snake, Nasi and Mee, has come up with a Yum Cha menu. While non-vegetarian options include prawn har gao, chicken and prawn sui mai, Sichuan chicken dumplings and more, vegetarians can dig into Yangzhou fried rice or garlic butter fried rice. *On at Nasi and Mee, Koramangala, Bellandur and Manyata Tech till February 16.*

Raise a toast

ONGOING
Toast & Tonic has an ongoing Taco & Sangria Festival, a month-long celebration of flavours paired with a range of crafted sangrias. Available till February 12, the menu includes crispy hot honey chicken tacos, vegetable tacos with green apple and musk melon sangria to name a few. *On at Toast & Tonic, Wood Street, Ashok Nagar. Call 9148254262.*

Concrete canvas

Bengaluru's Museum of Art and Photography (MAP) is set to host two interesting events on January 25, offering art enthusiasts a chance to dive deep into the realms of modern architecture and contemporary art.

The day begins at 3pm with an engaging conversation between celebrated contemporary artist Michael Craig-Martin and MAP founder Abhishek Poddar. Craig-Martin, known for his vibrant conceptual depictions of everyday objects, will discuss the inspirations and creative journey behind his groundbreaking works.

Later, from 5pm to 7.30pm, MAP will present the screening of *Louis Kahn's Tiger City*. Directed by Sundaram Tagore, the film retraces the legendary architect Louis Kahn's work on the monumental parliamentary complex in Bangladesh. The screening complements the ongoing exhibition *Eckart Muthesius and Manik Bagh: Pioneering Modernism in India*, curated by Raffael Dedo Gadebusch.

The screening will feature an introduction by Sundaram Tagore, a Calcutta-born art historian and filmmaker, followed by an audience Q&A session.

Both events are free, but prior registration is required. At MAP's Mazumdar-Shaw Auditorium. For details visit map-india.org.

Music, mystic, magic

Praveen Sudevan

The 24th edition of TCS Ruhaniyat will unfold on January 24, at the Jayamahal Palace Hotel Lawns in Bengaluru. For more than two decades, this festival has been a pilgrimage for music and poetry enthusiasts.

Organised by the Mumbai-based Banyan Tree Events and presented in association with Tata Consultancy Services, Ruhaniyat has been a festival that attempts to connect centuries-old traditions with the questions and curiosities of the present day.

This year, the line-up features a spectrum of performances – from Avadhoot Gandhi's soulful tribute to Maharashtra's saints to Indo-Arabic collaborations and Qawwali. Another act that encapsulates the spirit of Ruhaniyat is Madan Gopal Singh & Chaar Yaar, a group whose work with mystical poetry and cross-cultural compositions has earned them a devoted following.

A journey of freedom

For Madan Gopal, Ruhaniyat is more than a performance space – it is a crucible for creativity. "We have been associated with Ruhaniyat for almost 15 years or so and have travelled extensively with them in India and abroad," he says, "This platform has given us the freedom to work on new material, face creative challenges, and collaborate on cross-cultural compositions. It has been a truly enriching journey."

Ruhaniyat, unlike many festivals, encourages artists to step outside their comfort zones. He explains, "There are two kinds of platforms. One doesn't require much experimentation – you perform and leave. The other allows for creativity and out-of-the-box thinking. Ruhaniyat belongs to the latter. It has enabled us to experiment with different languages and styles, including Punjabi, English, and Persian."

For Madan Gopal and his ensemble, this freedom is a lifeline. He adds that their work is not just music – it's a dialogue that spans centuries, cultures, and emotions.

Mystic poets in a modern lens

At the heart of Madan Gopal's performances are the verses of mystic poets such as Rumi, Bulleh Shah, and Guru Nanak. Their words, timeless and universal, take on new life under his thoughtful interpretation. "The works of mystic poets like Rumi resonate a lot with today's audiences," he says. "For instance, when I'm singing Rumi, I often connect it with John Lennon. Just see the jump – Rumi is from the 13th century, and Lennon is from the 20th. This interplay of texts across centuries adds depth to the music."

His affection for Bulleh Shah, the 18th-century Punjabi Sufi poet, is particularly evident. "Bulleh Shah's idea of love is fascinating because it is inclusive, spanning multiple religions and even non-religious perspectives. His rebellious spirit and his ability to challenge regressive notions make him incredibly relevant today."

Bridging the gap Madan Gopal Singh (second from right) with the Chaar Yaar ensemble. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

But for him, these performances are not merely historical explorations. "We revisit historical texts with our contemporary anxieties, joys, and questions. Our music addresses themes such as migration, ecology, and the multiplicity of languages, making it as relevant today as it was centuries ago."

Bridging generations

In an era when tradition often feels at odds with modernity, Madan Gopal is optimistic about the younger generation's engagement. "The younger generation today is far stronger than it was 20 years ago," he says. "Many are deeply interested in critical inquiries and are doing commendable work. Artistes like Bindu Malini, Shabnam Virmani, Parvathy Baul, and ensembles like the Raghu Dixit Project are creating a resonance with cultural and historical relevance."

For Madan Gopal, music is more than an art form; it is a tool for navigating life's complexities. "The first and foremost thing is that I must address my own anxiety in order to engage with the larger anxieties of life," he says. "I do that as a musician, poet, thinker, writer, and as an ordinary human being."

On January 24, 6.15pm onwards, at the Jayamahal Palace Hotel Lawns. Tickets available on BookMyShow.com. For media queries and further information, contact 9223231359 or write to office@banyantreeevents.com

CAG report on PPE kit deal will not have bearing in Lok Ayukta case

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

Though the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report that the Kerala government paid an exorbitant price for the purchase of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) during the pandemic has created a political stir in the State, it is unlikely to leave any legal bearing on the case pending before the Lok Ayukta.

The scope for judicial interference following the CAG report is very limited as the report has to be considered by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the State Assembly, which can reject or accept it. The State Legislature can recommend to the government to act on the findings of the PAC. The Kerala High Court and the Supreme Court have pointed out that it would be inappropriate for the courts to interfere with the proceedings pending before the State Legislature, pointed out judicial sources.

Moreover, the report prepared as part of the regular audit process is of no evidentiary value before a court of law. Though the views of the State government would be sought in the report, the individuals against whom the imputations are made are not heard before finalising it.

Meanwhile, it may take some time for the Lok Ayukta to take up the case that was filed in 2022, sources indicated.

Naidu holds talks with heads of leading firms in Davos

He discusses establishment of AI University and other key projects with the Microsoft founder

G.V. Subba Rao
VIJAYAWADA

On the third day of his visit to Davos for the World Economic Forum (WEF) summit, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday held talks with the heads of leading companies to attract investments to the State.

Mr. Naidu met Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft, in Davos. During the meeting, they discussed key topics such as establishment of an AI University, a Centre of Excellence for Health, and making Andhra Pradesh the gateway to South India.

Selling point: Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu and IT Minister N. Lokesh with Microsoft founder Bill Gates in Davos. PTI

In another meeting, Mr. Naidu urged Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian to explore the possibility of setting up a design centre in Visakhapatnam, where Google was developing its chips for servers. He sought establishment of a manufacturing unit in Andhra Pradesh to integrate Google Cloud's server supply chain. Additionally, the Chief Minister suggested that Andhra Pradesh be made the central hub for server maintenance services, and assured Mr. Kurian of the government's full cooperation.

Recently, Google had signed an MoU with the State government to set up its Data City in Visakhapatnam. Google had also signed agreements with the government to develop the use of artificial intelligence and enhance skill development opportunities for the State's youth.

Mr. Naidu aslo held talks with Petronas president and Group CEO Muhammad Taufik.

'Hyderabad the place for investments'

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

Projecting Hyderabad as the city with the world's best mobility options and also an environment-friendly set-up, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy urged business leaders to invest in Hyderabad to make it the fastest growing city in the world.

Speaking at the CII-HMC round-table session on "Reimagining Urban Mobility: Trends, Innovations and Opportunities" at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, the Chief Minister said that if one wanted to predict the future of any city over the next 10, 20, 30 or 50 years, cities where costs and time to move people and goods were low would win in the long term.

Business ideas: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and officials with Unilever CEO Hein Schumacher in Davos.

Mr. Reddy said urban mobility was the foundation for cities' growth and future. The growth of nations depended on the growth of cities, he said, adding that urban mobility, along with sustainability and environmental factors, would decide the future of mankind.

Pushing for investments, the Chief Minister said that Hyderabad, with a population of over 12 million, was the fastest growing city and would have the best urban mobility facility in the country.

Electric vehicles are a big focus for the State government, he said, reminding the zero registration charges introduced by the Telangana government on all electric vehicles. With this initiative, Telangana has the highest growth of sales in EVs in the country, he said.

I-T officials search office of *Pushpa 2* director in Hyderabad

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Income Tax officials reportedly carried out a search at the office of Sukumar, the director of the film *Pushpa 2: The Rule,* at Banjara Hills in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

The search is expected to continue at other properties related to the director and other members of Mythri Movie Makers.

This follows a series of searches conducted at the properties related to *Pushpa 2* and *Game Changer* producers, including Telangana Film Federation Development Corporation (TGFDC) chairman V. Venkata Ramana Reddy, popularly known as Dil Raju, on Tuesday.

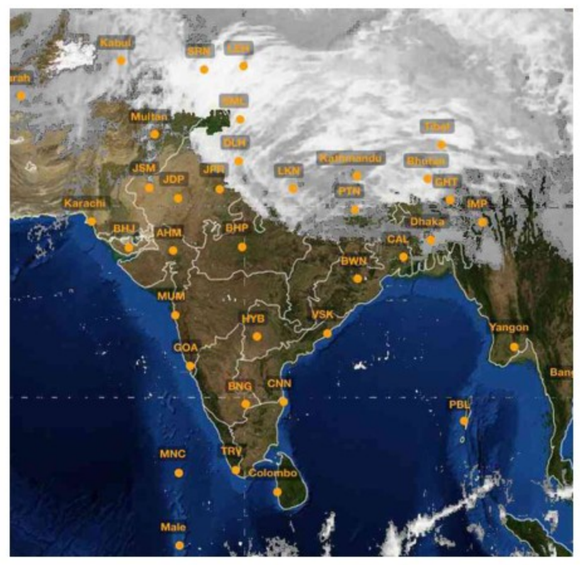
The raids that began on Tuesday in the upscale Jubilee Hills at Dil Raju's residence, are expected to continue for two more days.

This comes against the backdrop of massive budgets and box office collections associated with the recent Sankranti releases by Dil Raju. The movies include *Pushpa 2* and major films lined up for the two producers.

While Dil Raju's wife Tejaswini on Tuesday said the IT officials were conducting 'routine checks', the I-T Department is yet to issue a formal statement regarding the raids. On Tuesday official sources said the searches were carried out with regard to the charges of tax evasion.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Dense fog conditions likely in isolated pockets of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Sikkim, West Bengal and Odisha. Cold day conditions likely in isolated pockets of Himachal Pradesh and Bihar. Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets of Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan and Muzaffarabad

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	26.3	13.0	Kozhikode	—	35.6	23.6
Ahmedabad	—	30.7	15.4	Kurnool	—	34.1	18.1
Aizawl	—	25.1	10.8	Lucknow	—	27.7	10.5
Allahabad	—	28.6	11.4	Madurai	—	30.4	22.0
Bengaluru	—	29.1	14.9	Mangaluru	—	32.7	21.3
Bhopal	—	28.7	11.2	Mumbai	—	32.2	18.3
Bhubaneswar	—	31.9	14.4	Mysuru	—	—	14.9
Chandigarh	—	25.0	9.0	New Delhi	—	26.0	9.3
Chennai	—	29.5	22.8	Patna	—	19.0	14.1
Coimbatore	—	31.0	19.1	Port Blair	—	29.6	22.6
Dehradun	—	25.9	9.1	Puducherry	—	29.3	21.6
Gangtok	—	15.6	8.8	Pune	—	34.9	—
Goa	—	34.0	21.0	Raipur	—	32.4	15.2
Guwahati	—	26.2	14.8	Ranchi	—	28.8	12.1
Hubballi	—	33.0	17.0	Shillong	—	19.0	8.0
Hyderabad	—	31.6	14.6	Shimla	—	18.7	8.5
Imphal	—	24.3	7.9	Srinagar	—	12.5	0.6
Jaipur	—	24.5	13.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.0	25.2
Kochi	—	31.4	24.8	Tiruchi	—	29.7	21.4
Kohima	—	17.2	5.2	Vijayawada	—	29.8	18.9
Kolkata	—	27.6	15.0	Visakhapatnam	—	30.0	18.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.15	102	12	232	136	
Bengaluru	.15	40	32	106	100	
Chennai	7	9	42	152	121	
Delhi	.12	109	84	299	254	
Hyderabad	6	124	9	152	148	
Kolkata	.12	118	38	184	155	
Lucknow	8	53	60	239	192	
Mumbai	.32	64	57	277	221	
Pune	—	234	65	187	135	
Visakhapatnam	—	—	12	—	—	—

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 392 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 21

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Video of Kerala student threatening teachers goes viral

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Palakkad and Malappuram Regional Deputy Director (RDD) has sent a report to the Director of General Education (DGE) along with an explanation from the Principal of a higher secondary school in Palakkad after a video of a student threatening teachers after his mobile phone was confiscated went viral on social media.

Minister for General Education V. Sivankutty has directed the DGE to look into the incident and submit a report.

As mobile phones are not allowed in school, the Plus One student's phone was taken away and handed over to the Principal. The student then issued dire threats to teachers in the Principal's room. This was captured on video and went viral on social media.

The RDD said such behaviour from students was not really uncommon owing to increasing mobile phone use and social media addiction. Teachers should not see it simply as misbehaviour. What the student said was not as important as how the video got published, he said.

The Principal said he had initially wanted to show the video to the student once he calmed down. The student had expressed readiness to apologise. The school too wanted to see him change and would provide him counselling.

In a first, a tribal king from Kerala to attend Republic Day parade in Delhi

Sandeep Vellaram
IDUKKI

Raman Rajamannan, the head of the Mannan community and the only tribal king in Kerala, will participate in the Republic Day parade in Delhi.

According to officials, the king and his wife will join the event as guests of the Scheduled Tribes (SC) Development Department. Minister for Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Backward Classes O.R. Kelu handed over the invitation to Mr. Rajamannan.

According to officials, this will be the first time a tribal king will attend the Republic Day parade in Delhi. The SC Development Department will meet the travel expenses of Mr. Rajamannan and his wife, Binumol.

Minister O.R. Kelu handing over the Republic Day invitation to king of Mannan tribal community at Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday.

During the visit, the couple will meet the President and other prominent leaders. He will also visit Agra and other historically important places in the capital. They will be returning to Kerala on February 2.

According to officials, the Centre demanded the participation of persons from the tribal community of the State for the Republic Day parade. The SC Development Department then decided to send the couple as representatives of the community.

"The government's decision is an honour to the Mannan community," said the official.

On Tuesday, Mr. Rajamannan and Ms. Binumol visited the State Assembly, and was received by Mr. Kelu. Devikulam MLA A. Raja accompanied them.

48 settlements

The Mannan community is mainly settled in the buffer zone area of the Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary at Kozhimala, the hub of the tribe with 48 settlements ruled by a king, the only such community in southern India.

The king is an integral part of the traditional functions and festivities of the community.

He will wear a turban or headgear and special dress on such occasions and will be assisted by two Ministers and soldiers during the functions.

HUDCO clears ₹11K-cr. loan for development of Amaravati

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The Board of Directors of Housing & Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO), in a meeting held in Mumbai on Wednesday, decided to release the ₹11,000 crore it had committed to lending for the development of Amaravati, the capital city of Andhra Pradesh.

This enables the State government to expedite the construction works in Amaravati. Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P. Narayana, in a release, said that he had multiple rounds of discussions with the top managerial personnel of HUDCO in the last few months, including its CMD Sanjay Kulshrestha.

Mr. Narayana said he had given the HUDCO officials a detailed account of the plans made for the development of Amaravati as a greenfield capital city, and duly appealed to them extend financial support.

The clearance of the HUDCO loan would ensure the much-needed funds to speed up the works which ran aground during the YSRCP regime.

The Centre had promised to arrange a funding of ₹15,000 crore from World Bank, and another ₹11,000 crore from HUDCO, which materialised after months of deliberations. The World Bank approved a loan of $800 million for Amaravati Integrated Urban Development Programme in December 2024.

Judicial inquiry ordered into Tirupati stampede

Sambasiva Rao M.
AMARAVATI

The Government of Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday constituted a Commission of Inquiry headed by M. Satyanarayana Murthy, former judge of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, to inquire into the stampede that had occurred on January 8, 2025, at Padmavathi Park in Tirupati, which led to the death of six pilgrims ahead of Vaikunta Ekadasi.

Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand issued G.O. Ms. No. 16 to this effect. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, during his visit to Tirupati in the aftermath of the incident, had announced that a judicial inquiry would be ordered.

People surging towards ticket centre at Padmavathi Park, minutes before the stampede occurred in Tirupati on January 8. FILE PHOTO

The commission was mandated to inquire into the circumstances that led to the stampede, which resulted in the death of six devotees waiting to collect the tokens for Vaikunta Dwara Darshan. It was tasked with identifying whether proper arrangements had been made for the issuance of the tokens, and whether there were any shortcomings, and, if so, the persons responsible for it.

The government also directed the commission to suggest measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents in the future, apart from making recommendations with respect to the institutional mechanisms to ensure the safety and security of the devotees visiting Tirumala and Tirupati for darshan of Lord Venkateswara.

The commission shall complete its inquiry and submit its report to the government within a period of six months from the date of assumption of charge.

The commission would have the powers of a civil court.

Plan to add EV buses sparks concerns about job losses among TGSRTC unions

Syed Mohammed
HYDERABAD

The Telangana government's plan to augment its bus fleet with electric vehicles has caused concern among certain workers unions. Union leaders fear that these electric buses that will be inducted on gross cost contract (GCC) model, would lead to job losses.

The Telangana government, including Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, waxed eloquent on several occasions on adding electric buses to the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) fleet. An estimated 3,000 electric buses are likely to replace ageing buses that run on diesel.

TGSRTC unions — SWU and SWF — have announced that they will launch a protest against the State government's move to add electric buses to the fleet. FILE PHOTO

The rationale, they said, is to reduce the carbon footprint, and bring about a more environment-friendly public transport ecosystem. TGSRTC unions – SWU and SWF – have announced that they would launch a protest against the State government's move to add electric buses to the fleet.

They maintained that these buses would be pressed into service by means of the GCC, a model in which the corporation pays the vendor (a private player) per kilometre, which would eventually translate into problems of workers of the TGSRTC. The unions claimed that mechanics, drivers and conductors would be affected by the induction of electric buses.

Changed dynamics

India must chart a new transactional course with Trump administration

The first 48 hours of U.S. President Donald Trump's second term have been proof of the radical shifts he plans over four years, with the overarching theme of putting "America First". While the strengthening of India-U.S. ties during his first term should give those in New Delhi attempting to strategise for this term some comfort, his moves now make it clear that it will be necessary to expect the unexpected as well. The slew of Executive Orders changes U.S. policy on energy, the environment and climate change, trade and global taxes, citizenship routes, health, border control and immigration. But the new administration has shown it is keen to engage India: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who was invited along with other Quad Foreign Ministers at the inaugural ceremony, was the first Foreign Minister to hold a one-on-one bilateral meeting with new U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio. The readout of their meeting and the Quad Foreign Ministers' joint statement make it clear that the two sides are on the same page on the Indo-Pacific partnership, concerns over Chinese actions, critical and emerging technology cooperation, strategic and defence ties. Yet, some Trump-Rubio pronouncements have set alarm bells ringing, notably on trade, immigration and the cancellation of citizenship by birth. On trade, India has escaped being named in the first round of tariff announcements, but Mr. Trump's comments on a "100% tariff" against all members of the BRICS emerging economies grouping raised the suspense and a possible market reaction. In his first term, he had withdrawn India's GSP status affecting Indian exporters. On immigration, he has announced a "border emergency", authorised a crackdown on illegal and undocumented migrants, and plans to crush the hopes of H-1B visa holders and other Indians working there, by cancelling the automatic path to citizenship for any children born to them in the U.S. With 7,25,000 undocumented Indians, any action to deport them in large numbers, beginning with about 18,000-20,000 on the Immigration "final list for removal", will be a major crisis for India.

In this context, Mr. Rubio's statement in talks with Mr. Jaishankar that they must address the "irregular migration" should be taken seriously. So too should Mr. Trump's pronouncements insisting on investments in the U.S., hiring in the U.S., and the buying of U.S. energy. The new administration's geopolitical outlook appears to be set on devaluing the multilateral world order, withdrawing from U.S. commitments of support to WHO, the WTO, and the UN, and putting NATO allies on notice. Given the signs, New Delhi must be prepared for a U.S. administration that will not be particularly sensitive to India's concerns or be a willing partner in India's growth unless it sees a benefit for itself, and instead chart a more transactional course, while moving to limit the damage from any adverse actions of the Trump era.

An exit of bluster

The rest of the world must reassess the U.S.'s role in fighting climate change

President Donald Trump has fired his howitzers at multilateralism by signing into decree the United States' withdrawal from the 2015 Paris Agreement. This sets records that are in a class of their own. The U.S. is the only country to have withdrawn thrice from a climate agreement – beginning with George W. Bush's withdrawal, in 2001, from the Kyoto Protocol. Mr. Trump, of course, sets a new low by being the only President to withdraw from a climate agreement twice. In the run-up to the decree, there is a pall of gloom in the climate world over what the U.S.'s latest exit might mean, particularly when the globe has finished its first full calendar year above the 1.5° Celsius mark.

The U.S. is the second largest emitter of greenhouse gases. By virtue of being the most powerful economy, it has arrogated to itself the mantle of 'global leadership' in addressing climate change. But now that the leader has had the spottiest track record of keeping to the terms of a significant agreement – one, whose rule book the U.S. played a major role in compiling – perhaps it is time for the rest of the world to reassess America's role in addressing climate change. Under both Republican and Democratic governments, U.S. domestic policy on greenhouse gas emissions has been subservient to business interests. Oil and gas production increased under the Biden administration. The U.S. remains the world's largest crude oil producer, achieving record production in 2023. The country is also the world's largest producer of gas and, in 2022, became the world's largest exporter for liquified natural gas (LNG). Mr. Trump has only committed to add on to this already substantial base. The U.S. is critically short of achieving its target of greenhouse gas emissions. As of 2022, the U.S. has achieved only about one-third of its 2030 emissions reduction target. In the last weeks of his Presidency, Mr. Biden increased the U.S.'s emission-reduction commitments to 61%-66% of 2005 levels by 2035. This too, calculations suggest, will be insufficient to meet a 1.5° C target. Private capital propping up renewable energy has grown exponentially since Mr. Bush, and is now too substantial for Mr. Trump and his financial backers to ignore. While it will take a year for the exit to be formalised, it is likely that the U.S.'s behind-the-scenes engagement – especially at the next climate meet (COP 30) in Brazil in November 2025 – will continue. The politics of Mr. Trump suggests that he is not averse to running with the hare and hunting with the hounds.

It's Russian roulette in the skies

Over 70 years ago, Ian Fleming created the fictional character of a secret service agent called James Bond, code named 007, who had the licence to kill. On September 1, 1983, a Korean Airlines jet, flight 007, on a scheduled flight from New York to Seoul via Anchorage, was shot down by a Russian Air Force Sukhoi fighter plane when the Korean flight had deviated from its flight path due to a navigational error. All 246 passengers and 23 crew were killed. One of the passengers was the daughter of Hans Ephraimson-Abt, who began an organisation to aid the victims of air accidents. His initiative resulted in a big push at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to publish rules regarding conflict risk. But this was shot down by Russia and its allies in ICAO.

Captain A. (Mohan) Ranganathan

is a former airline instructor pilot and aviation safety adviser. He is also a former member of the Civil Aviation Safety Advisory Council (CASAC), India

Cases of misidentification

On July 3, 1988, an Iran Air plane, flight 655, was shot down by a United States Navy warship, *USS Vincennes*, over the Strait of Hormuz. All 290 passengers were killed when the ship's missile brought down the plane which was misidentified to be a fighter plane. During the Iran-Iraq war (1980-88), U.S. patrolling required civilian aircraft to transmit the Identification Friend or Foe mode code. Apparently, the warship crew identified the Iranian aircraft to be a fighter and orders were issued to shoot it down.

On November 22, 2003, a DHL Cargo plane took off from Baghdad for Bahrain. As the flight was making a rapid climb out, a surface to air missile launched by terrorists struck the left wing between the engine and the wing tip. The crew lost all hydraulics and because the fuel tank was full, there were no fuel vapours to explode in the exposed fuel tank. The crew controlled the flight using only differential engine thrust and managed to carry out a safe landing, displaying exceptional skill. This writer had the privilege of attending a special presentation by the crew at the Flight Safety Foundation IASS 2004 seminar at Shanghai, China.

On February 27, 2019, just after Balakot, when fighter planes of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Pakistan Air Force were engaged in a dogfight, an IAF Mi-17 helicopter was shot down by a surface-to-air missile of the IAF's air defence system. Six personnel lost their lives in what was a serious error. Here again, the helicopter was wrongly identified as a foe.

With military conflicts and incidents of state players posing threats to civil aviation rising, the issue of training proficiency and skills assumes importance

On July 17, 2014, a Malaysia Airlines flight, MH17, from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur with 283 passengers and 15 crew, was shot down by Russian-backed forces with a surface-to-air missile missile while flying over eastern Ukraine.

All these examples highlight the issue of misidentification.

Post September 11, 2001, there are specific procedures to be followed in the event of track deviation due to weather, or a failure of navigation signals. Specific radio procedures are implemented for crew to comply with, else air force fighter jets may shoot down a civilian aircraft if perceived to be flying in a suspicious manner. On February 16, 2017, an Indian airline flight, Jet Airways flight 9W 118, with 330 passengers and 15 crew members, from Mumbai to London, was cruising at 36,000 feet. It flew over a few flight information regions without maintaining radio contact with the air traffic control of the region. The plane had not deviated from its assigned track. When it entered German airspace north of Cologne, the German Air Force deployed two of its Eurofighter Typhoons to intercept the Indian plane. Had the Jet Airways crew not responded to the Germans on an emergency frequency, they could have been shot down.

India's safety regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), did a cover up terming it as a malfunction of the aircraft's communication system. If it was really a communication failure, the aircraft crew should have been using the necessary transponder code and ground stations would have known that it was an aircraft facing communication failure. Fighter jets would not have been deployed to intercept it.

Conflict zones, their dangers

The case of an Azerbaijani airliner, while on a flight from Baku in Azerbaijan to Grozny, in Russia, on December 25, 2024, but which crashed near the Kazakhstan city of Aktau after being diverted, has been the result of another event where a Russian anti-aircraft defence system may have caused the loss of lives. Of the 67 passengers on board, there were some survivors. For a state to get away with it by just saying 'sorry' does not bring back the precious lives lost. The aircraft had veered from its scheduled route due to fog. There is also the issue of GPS spoofing and false signals or a loss of signals that affect navigation.

More than 500 people have lost their lives due to civil airlines being shot down. With growing wars and conflicts, flying over or near conflict zones is becoming dangerous, especially when there are countries which do not respect international borders and there are rogue elements who cause trouble by interfering with GPS signals.

The Indian regulator's silence

This brings the focus on a serious issue. Do airlines in India have comprehensive training in place for pilots to recognise jammed signals and do the airlines have standard operating procedures in place for taking over the navigation with alternate methods? There are reports of GPS errors or failures in the airspace over Pakistan, Afghanistan and Myanmar. With a rapid expansion of flights and with large numbers of aircraft being inducted, do airlines in India have enough experienced pilots? For example, Air India operates many of its non-stop flights to the west coast of the United States on routes that are avoided by American carriers. There are also reports of some leased aircraft with Air India not being equipped for extended flights over mountainous terrain. We hear nothing from the DGCA on what preventive measures it is taking in these cases.

We have had three passenger aircraft shot down by the Russians or Russian-linked agents. We have had the U.S. Navy shooting down a passenger airliner. We have had a cargo aircraft shot by a terrorist group with missiles supplied by either Russia or the U.S. as conflicts in West Asia have involved one or the other super power aiding sides in the conflicts. The large-scale use of drones and defence forces using missiles to shoot down flights make the skies really unsafe for passenger aircraft while flying over conflict regions. There is another danger. Skill levels have dropped as there is now rapid training which has resulted in degraded monitoring to assess pilot proficiency. The world has to wake up and take cognisance of this new danger. Indian aviation may be expanding rapidly but, at the same time, there is no urgency or compulsion to ensure the quality of pilots' flying skills. As James Reason's Swiss cheese theory explains, the holes in the cheese are lining up.

Do we act now or let another disaster pass?

China's moves must recast India's critical minerals push

On January 2, 2025, China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) expanded its export control list by including 28 entities from the United States, effectively restricting their access to a swath of items classified under dual-use export controls. At the core of these restrictions lies minerals and rare and refined materials that are vital for high-technology applications such as in aerospace, semiconductors, batteries, and advanced electronics. Beijing's list encompasses tungsten, gallium, magnesium, beryllium, hafnium, lithium-6 (isotope), and others – minerals with uses ranging from chip production to speciality alloys.

This is not the first time that China has weaponised the exports of its critical minerals. And it is an approach that is strategic and calculated. Beijing primarily targets minerals that are deemed to be critical by western nations and their allies, especially those essential for semiconductors, batteries, and high-tech manufacturing. However, China carefully balances these decisions against two constraining factors: it avoids controlling minerals which are heavily dependent on western raw material imports. And it refrains from actions that could disrupt its domestic industrial enterprises or export-dependent sectors. This strategic calculus was evident in China's rare earth minerals embargo against Japan in 2010, its recent restrictions on antimony, gallium, and germanium exports, and its ban, in December 2023, on rare earth extraction and processing technologies.

The situation in India

Meanwhile, policymakers in the United States and elsewhere are becoming increasingly concerned. These developments underscore a larger trend: the competition for critical minerals has become a fulcrum of international economic diplomacy. For nations such as India, these events are also a wake-up call – to improve domestic mineral exploration and production capacity.

India's push for critical minerals development has faced stubborn challenges. In 2023, lithium deposits that were found in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district made headlines, hinting at a game-changer moment for India's energy transition. However, a little over a year later, the story remains lacklustre: no company has shown interest in bidding for these resources, and the block remains in limbo. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated incident. Government data show that only 48% (24 out of 49) of the mineral blocks available for auction in recent years have been auctioned.

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India's critical minerals development plans face challenges; a way out may be to adopt the semiconductor fabrication model

This lack of market enthusiasm cannot be pinned entirely on government negligence. Over the last three years, the Union government has introduced measures to spur activity in critical minerals. The Ministry of Mines identified 30 critical minerals that are deemed essential for national security. And before that, the Union government set up a designated body, Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL), which has been tasked with obtaining overseas investments in critical minerals such as lithium and cobalt. Parliament passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023, lifting restrictive classifications on some rare earth elements that used to be considered 'atomic minerals'. These reforms theoretically opened the door for greater private-sector investment and technology sharing.

Reforms and results

A key highlight of the 2023 amendments is the introduction of an 'exploration license', devised to attract specialised resource exploration agencies, including foreign companies, to survey potentially rich but geologically challenging deposits. Instead of having to commit to a full-scale mining operation that can take over a decade or more to turn profitable, these exploratory firms can now participate in reconnaissance and prospecting alone. The law also promises to reimburse 50% of the exploration expenditure once mining begins, aiming to de-risk early-stage operations.

Despite these promising reforms, the results have been tepid. Only a handful of exploration licences for minerals such as lithium, rare earth elements, and graphite have been cleared, and those mostly went to Indian public sector firms. Foreign participation is sparse, and further downstream, mining license auctions for critical minerals have largely stalled.

One explanation is that India's resource classification system is outdated, leaving miners unsure about the commercial viability of mineral blocks. Exploration levels – often categorised under international norms as G1, G2, G3, or G4 – require progressively detailed geological data on ore grade and quantity. Many auctioned blocks in India have yet to reach advanced exploration status, making them riskier to prospective bidders. That said, a more puzzling factor is the low demand for exploration licences themselves – an option that should, in principle, help de-risk investments but evidently has not had the intended effect.

Fiscal incentives may be essential

This brings us to the essential role of high-quality data. Exploration is at the heart of mitigating 'information asymmetry', where potential buyers (mining companies) and the seller (government) do not share a clear view of the resource's true value. Without robust geological surveys, many bidders discount their offers or abstain entirely. The result is suboptimal auctions, with some potentially valuable blocks simply overlooked.

A possible remedy is to offer larger upfront fiscal incentives during the exploration phase. In other words, the solution might be to approach critical minerals extraction as a semiconductor fabrication project. In chip manufacturing –another sector with enormous upfront costs and slow returns – India has taken an aggressive approach, pledging direct capital support early in the construction phase. A similar model could work for critical minerals, offsetting immediate exploration costs instead of reimbursing them only after production begins. Upfront capital support for exploration would resolve a market failure and help unlock value many times over in downstream mining, exploration, sales, and exports.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hits the ground running

It seems to be shock after shock. U.S. President Donald Trump's flurry of executive orders are bound to have several countries on tenterhooks ("Trump declares end to U.S. citizenship by birth", January 22). It is indisputable that Mr. Trump has every right to take whatever action he deems fit and necessary to safeguard his country's interests.

However, his order to grant pardon, commuting the prison sentences and nullifying multiple criminal cases that relate to the riots of January, 6, 2021, is totally unacceptable and outrageous. If the judiciary in the U.S. professes fairness, it must act.

V. Johan Dhanakumar,
Chennai

Raising walls of tariff and also walls against immigration could come back to haunt Mr. Trump. China has been massively setting up manufacturing plants in Mexico, which looks to the huge employment potential therein and, in the process, upgrade its economy. By the same token, the U.S. would lose cheap Mexican labour that had, hitherto, kept local wages low. Canada could follow where the immigration policies of Mr. Trump would induce technical talent to move from the U.S. into its welcoming arms.

Worse, Mr. Trump might have allowed Chinese influence to flow right across the U.S.'s borders, north and south. The standing of nations is sustained more by deep statesmanship than popular messaging.

R. Narayanan,
Navi Mumbai

Mr. Trump's dramatic return and the cascade of executive orders have set the stage for what promises to be a turbulent era in (American) politics. These actions are reflective of a leader intent on reshaping his nation with a vision that may well ripple across the globe with profound consequences.

What may be the beginning of a golden era for America may be cause for worry for the rest of the world.

Gregory Fernandes,
Mumbai

With America's second exit from the Paris climate agreement, the world faces greater danger.

Given the fact that the current emission-cut commitments of countries do not match the Paris pact's goals, there must be global resolve to ensure that mitigation ambitions are still met.

M. Jeyaram,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

Cow urine

A letter writer has shed light on the ludicrous line that cow urine is a panacea for diseases ('Letters to The Editor', January 22). Let us hope that tomorrow some other person does not come up with a finding that cow dung can be consumed by humans! One appreciates the fact that the expert has highlighted the dangers of consuming cow's urine.

K. Narayanan Namboodiri,
Bengaluru

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The oligarchy we see today

Atanu Biswas

Professor of Statistics, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

In his farewell remarks as U.S. President, Joe Biden warned that an oligarchy was taking shape and threatening American democracy. Similar to Dwight Eisenhower's cautionary warning in 1961 about the "military-industrial complex", Mr. Biden highlighted a "tech industrial complex". He said that a new Gilded Age of "robber barons" was in danger of eroding hard-won freedoms.

As *The Guardian* noted in its editorial, U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt "undermined the 'malefactors of wealth' by trust-busting, creating regulatory agencies and putting land off limits to commercial exploitation." Today, the question of who will rule the U.S. – the people or the new aristocrats – may ultimately be at stake, it said.

Everywhere, political and economic power are intertwined. However, the connection can occasionally turn bleak and dangerous. There are 13 billionaires in U.S. President Donald Trump's cabinet. Elon Musk, the first individual with a net worth of over $400 billion, asked voters to brace for "temporary hardship" as his Department of Government Efficiency will reduce public spending. Mr. Musk invested $200 million in Mr. Trump's election campaign. "Oilgarchs" are already benefiting from their support for the fossil fuel-friendly President. At Mr. Trump's inauguration, among others, Amazon's Jeff Bezos, Apple's Tim Cook, and Meta's Mark Zuckerberg were present. Some of their businesses have significant contracts with the federal government.

Oligarchy across the ages

The Greek philosopher Aristotle coined the word oligarchy to contrast the ruling of a wealthy few "for corrupt and unjust purposes" with that of the aristocracy, or elite upper class. Oligarchs usually acquire power by financial means, such as making large donations to politicians who then govern in ways that the oligarchs specify. But oligarchs can also become powerful because of their social standing, notoriety, education, military, religious, or political ties.

Political scientist Jeffrey A. Winters outlined the historical commonality of oligarchs in his 2011 book *Oligarchy*. How oligarchs respond to the threats they face, including how directly involved they are in supplying the coercion underlying all property claims, whether individually or collectively, all influence their pursuit of wealth defence, he said.

Nonetheless, there have been significant shifts in the nature of oligarchy across the ages. The U.S. media had likened Michael Bloomberg to the Roman oligarch Marcus Licinius Crassus as Mr. Bloomberg was vying for a third term as mayor of New York in 2009. But while for oligarchs such as Crassus, becoming consul was one of the most crucial political moves favouring their fundamental oligarchic interests, for contemporary oligarchs, using private funds to purchase public office is motivated more by vanity than by oligarchic survival.

An oligarchy is only "evil" if and when oligarchs violate the rule of law, remove the checks and balances on their own power, and prioritise their own interests over those of the people, as noted by Aristotle and Robert Michels. This is what happened historically. The Philippines is said to be an oligarchy because of its colonial past and powerful families. China defines itself as a communist 'People's Republic', but some have referred to it as an oligarchy, as a small number of people have held all the power for several decades. More recently, the term has been used to refer to affluent, powerful, and well-connected Russian businessmen. But in 2022, U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders noted, "Of course the oligarchs run Russia. But guess what? Oligarchs run the United States as well."

What is the nature of oligarchy then? In his 2017 book, *American Oligarchy: The Permanent Political Class,* historian Ron Formisano wrote about the emergence of a permanent political class on a scale never seen in American history. Rising inequality is a result of its corruption, nepotism, and self-dealing. In addition to politicians, Formisano explores the activities of lobbyists, consultants, appointed bureaucrats, pollsters, celebrity journalists, and billionaires working behind the scenes.

Economist Simon Johnson, however, perceived that the emergence of an American financial aristocracy gained traction during the 2008 financial crisis. In 2015, former President Jimmy Carter described the U.S. as an "oligarchy with unlimited political bribery," as the *Citizens United v. FEC* Supreme Court ruling in 2010 lifted restrictions on political campaign donations.

Is oligarchy confined to a select few countries? As Mr. Sanders said, "…All over the world, we're seeing a small number of incredibly wealthy people running things in their favour." It would be unjust to blame only Mr. Trump for encouraging oligarchy. Several billionaires contributed to Mr. Biden's re-election campaign too.

Democracy and oligarchy

Can democracy fight against oligarchy? Despite Aristotle's assertion in his book, Politics, that "democracy is safer and more free from civil strife than oligarchy," the German sociologist Robert Michels' early 20th-century 'iron law of oligarchy' contends that democracy is an oxymoron because it will inevitably turn into an oligarchy due to the necessity to divide labour.

More than 200 years ago, U.S. President John Adams had expressed fear about the 'power elite'. In today's increasingly unequal world, empowered by tech marvels such as Artificial Intelligence, economic power invariably gets concentrated in a few hands. This may lead to intense oligarchy.

In today's increasingly unequal world, empowered by tech marvels such as Artificial Intelligence, economic power invariably gets concentrated in a few hands

Playing the Punjab card in Delhi

The AAP is hoping to fight anti-incumbency by riding on its achievements in Punjab

STATE OF PLAY

Vikas Vasudeva
vikas.vasudeva@thehindu.co.in

Delhi is going to the polls on February 5. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is trying hard to fight anti-incumbency and retain power by "showcasing" Punjab, the only full-fledged State where it holds sway.

A battery of ministers, legislators, and AAP leaders, including Punjab's Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, have been campaigning in Delhi over the last few weeks to project the Punjab government's work, in the run up to the Assembly polls.

The AAP came to power in Punjab by winning 92 of the 117 Assembly seats in 2022. However, in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, out of the 13 parliamentary constituencies it contested, it won only three. This disappointing electoral performance was a major blow to the party. In the recent Assembly bypolls, the AAP won three constituencies – Gidderbaha, Dera Baba Nanak, and Chabbewal, but it failed to retain its stronghold seat of Barnala in Sangrur, which is the home district of Mr. Mann.

As the AAP is close to completing three years in power in Punjab, its leaders have gone to Delhi to project the party's achievements. AAP leaders have boasted in Delhi about giving 300 units of free electricity per month to households, establishing Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinics, providing nearly 50,000 jobs, ensuring transparency in the functioning of the government, working towards reducing road accident fatalities in 2024 by deploying the Sadak Suraksha Force, who provide immediate first aid, among other achievements in Punjab.

However, this is a gamble. The Opposition parties – the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress – are cornering the AAP in Delhi over its "failures" and unfulfilled promises in Punjab. Not just parties, but also a section of government employees and pensioners from Punjab as well as farmers have been accusing the AAP of abandoning its pre-poll promises.

In the course of campaigning for the 2022 Punjab Assembly elections, AAP leaders, including Mr. Mann, had publicly favoured the procurement of 22 crops at the minimum support price (MSP) and assured government purchase after coming to power. However, they later took a U-turn. The AAP had also promised to provide financial assistance of ₹1,000 to all women aged 18 years and above, which remains unfulfilled. It had also pledged to wipe out the drug menace from Punjab within four months of government formation; this continues to be a distant dream.

Apart from this, the AAP seized power in Punjab riding on an anti-corruption plank. But it appears to be on the defensive now on the same issue, as many of its leaders are facing a barrage of corruption charges.

Several government employees and pensioners are also annoyed with the AAP for not fulfilling its pre-poll promise of restoring the Old Pension Scheme. They have said that they will mobilise people so that the AAP is not voted back to power in Delhi.

After coming to power in Punjab, the party has, on the basis of its governance model, sought votes during Assembly elections in States such as Gujarat, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan, but its electoral performance in all these States has been poor. In Delhi, there is a sense that the electoral benefits could be limited as Delhi mostly comprises urban constituencies in comparison to Punjab, which is an agrarian State with largely rural constituencies.

Even as the Delhi Assembly elections have occupied centre stage, the mayoral elections in the Union Territory of Chandigarh are slated to held on January 30. The Congress and the AAP are contesting jointly against the BJP. This is unlike in Delhi, where the Congress and AAP are fighting the polls separately. This may give political ammunition to the BJP, which has also joined hands with the Lok Janshakti Party and the Janata Dal (United), to target both the Congress and the AAP in Delhi.

Over the years, the AAP claims it is different from the "traditional parties" and has time and again sought a chance to form the government in States by playing this card. However, now the party, which is in power in two States, will be assessed on its performance. The Delhi Assembly elections are a crucial test for the AAP, which has been fighting several setbacks in the national capital. The implications of these election results would surely be seen in Punjab as well, whether the party wins or losses.

Jio leads in 12 telecom circles, Airtel dominates in nine

Vodafone Idea continues to lead in Kerala, despite its market share shrinking rapidly in recent years

DATA POINT

Nitika Francis
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Reliance Jio leads the wireless subscriber market in 12 of India's 22 telecom circles, while Airtel dominates nine. This leaves Vodafone Idea as the leader in just one circle – Kerala.

In the north-eastern and Jammu and Kashmir circles, Airtel leads the market, with around half of the subscribers choosing the provider. In Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, and Himachal Pradesh, Airtel leads with a market share of 40-50%, while in Tamil Nadu and Punjab, it leads with a share of less than 40%.

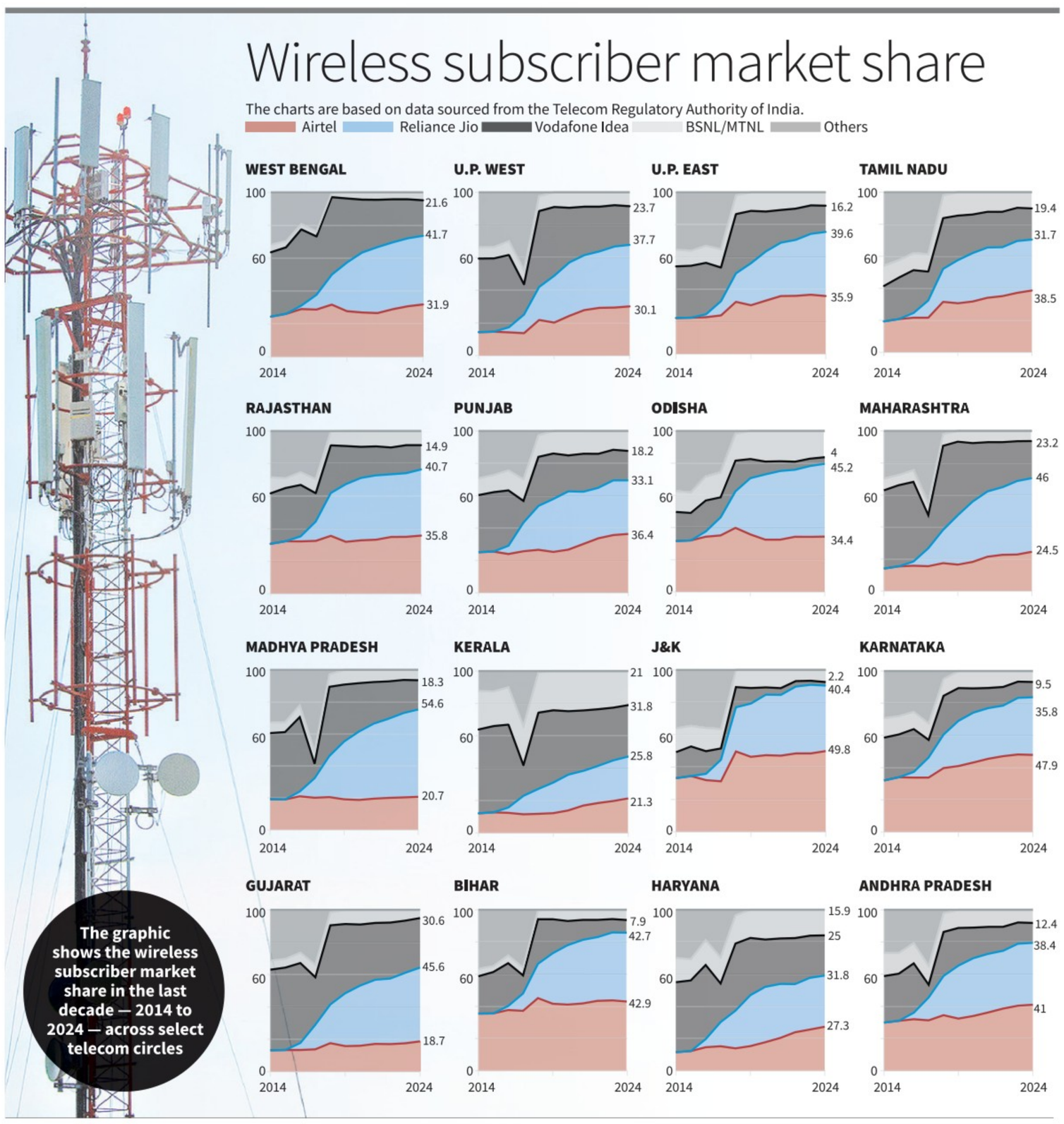
In Madhya Pradesh, Reliance Jio has a wireless subscriber market share which is close to 55%. In Kolkata, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Odisha, West Bengal, and Rajasthan, Reliance Jio leads with a market share of 40-50%, while in Uttar Pradesh (East and West), Mumbai, Delhi and Haryana, it leads with a share of less than 40%.

With a market share of 32%, Vodafone Idea is leading in Kerala. However, its market share in the State has sharply declined from the nearly 54% it had in 2015.

Kerala is the most fragmented market with all the four players – Jio, Airtel, Vodafone Idea and BSNL – holding over 20% of the wireless subscribers each. In fact, it is the only State where the State provider crossed the 20% mark.

Over the years, the market shares of Vodafone Idea and BSNL have declined sharply from their respective peaks across most States, creating a duopoly in recent years. In contrast, Jio and Airtel have reached their peak market share across most States, with very few exceptions.

The graphic shows the wireless subscriber market share in the last decade – 2014 to 2024 – across select telecom circles.



The graphic shows the wireless subscriber market share in the last decade — 2014 to 2024 — across select telecom circles

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 23, 1975

China extends ping-pong diplomacy to India

New Delhi, Jan. 22: China is sending a 62-member contingent headed by a Vice-Minister for the 33rd world table tennis championship that opens in Calcutta on February 6 with all the overtones of ping-pong diplomacy combining politics with sport.

Though the number of Chinese players participating in the tournament will be only 24, the delegation will include officials, pressmen, cameramen, doctors, interpreters, security personnel and communications men.

The Chinese team will be the guests of the Indian Table Tennis Federation, but the expenses will probably be borne by the Ministry of Education. The political aspects of the visit will be looked after by the Ministry of External Affairs from Delhi. The West Bengal Chief Minister, Mr. Siddhartha Shankar Ray, who is closely associated with the tournament, will provide the necessary liaison for handling the diplomatic assets of it.

The Chinese participation in this world table tennis championship in Calcutta has come to acquire importance because Peking has practised the art of ping-pong diplomacy with considerable success for improving its relations with the U.S. and Japan, besides establishing closer links with a number of other nations. India, too, fell in line with this innovation, when it accepted the Chinese invitation a couple of years back to participate in the Afro-Asian Latin American tournament.

Like Mao's celebrated smile, the little ping-pong ball failed to end the prevailing stalemate since meanwhile other events had further complicated the Sino-Indian situation. But it at least left the door open for minimal sporting exchanges despite the continued freeze on the political front.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 23, 1925

New cables in the Pacific

Leafield (Oxford), Mid. Jan 22: The Pacific Cable Board is now ready to proceed with the laying of a second cable from Vancouver to Fiji. This will complete the duplication of cable from Canada to Australia and New Zealand as section south of Fiji was doubled last year. The length of the new Northern Section is 5,796 nautical miles. 3,625 nautical miles of cable will be laid between Vancouver and Fanning Island and 2,171 nautical miles between Fanning Island and Suva, Fiji.

From Page One

13 killed as train runs over passengers

"The tragic loss of lives in a very unfortunate incident near Pachora in Jalgaon district is deeply distressing. I pay my heartfelt tributes to them," Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said in a video message from Davos in Switzerland. "Emergency equipment like glass cutters, floodlights etc. have been kept ready. We are monitoring the entire situation and all necessary assistance is being provided immediately. I am in touch with the district administration." He promised that the State government would provide for medical attention for the injured. Union Minister Raksha Khadse suggested that the toll could be higher.

Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan also expressed his condolences. "Extremely saddened to know about the unfortunate death of some passengers after they were hit by another train near Jalgaon. Convey my condolences to the next of kin of those who lost their lives. Wishing a speedy recovery to the injured," he said.

Rubio seeks talks on migration with India

The Minister said the meeting reviewed the "extensive bilateral partnership, of which Mr. Rubio has been a strong advocate", adding that they had shared views on regional and global issues.

"[I] look forward to closely working with him to advance our strategic cooperation", he added.

There are an estimated 7.25 lakh undocumented Indians in the U.S. among 1.4 million in total, according to the U.S. Immigration agency ICE, of which nearly 18,000 are on a list for "final removal" or deportations.

India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) did not respond to requests for a comment on Mr. Rubio's demand, nor did it respond to reports that India has agreed to cooperate in the deportation of the 18,000 Indians on the list.

The revocation of 'citizenship by birth', which is due to be implemented within 30 days if not annulled by U.S. courts, would affect hundreds of thousands of Indians working in the U.S. on H1-B and other temporary visas and hoping to raise families there.

Tax on BRICS

Neither side referred to Mr. Trump's other statement while issuing the Executive Orders, that he would levy a "100% tax" on members of the BRICS grouping of emerging economies, if they sought to sideline the U.S. dollar in trading.

Earlier, Mr. Jaishankar attended the Quad meeting along with Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Japanese Foreign Minister Iwaya Takeshi, which was Mr. Rubio's first foreign policy engagement after meeting State Department employees. A joint statement issued by the four Ministers said that they "strongly opposed any unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo by force or coercion", a message believed to be aimed at China's actions in the region.

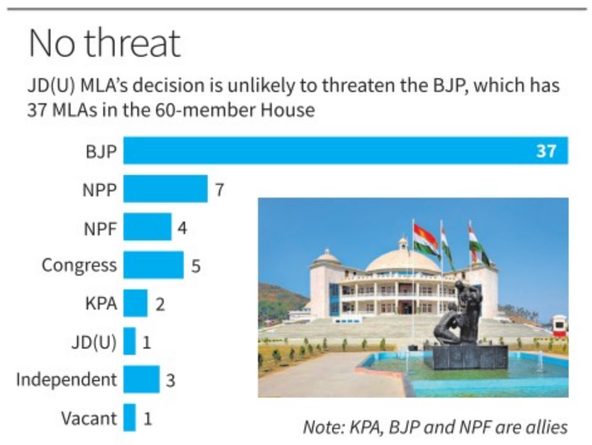
The next Quad Summit is due to be held in India, which was not able to host the Summit in 2024 as the then-U.S. President Joe Biden was unavailable.

Mr. Jaishankar said that it was "significant that the Quad FMM took place within hours of the inauguration of the Trump Administration". "This underlines the priority it has in the foreign policy of its member states," he wrote on X.

JD(U)'s lone MLA withdraws support to govt. in Manipur

Reacting swiftly, the party removed its Manipur State president for 'indiscipline' and once again pledged its support for the BJP-led NDA; Congress criticised JD(U)'s actions and questioned whether this indicated a broader political shift within NDA

Rahul Karmakar
Amarnath Tewary
GUWAHATI/PATNA



The Janata Dal-United (JD-U) withdrew support to the Nongthombam Biren Singh-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Manipur on Wednesday. However, reacting swiftly, the party removed its Manipur State president for "indiscipline" and once again pledged its support for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), stating that the party would continue to remain with the BJP government in Manipur.

Mohammad Abdul Nasir, who represents the Jiribam Assembly constituency, is the lone MLA of the Nitish Kumar-led party. The development comes two months after the National People's Party (NPP) walked out of the government with its six legislators. The decision of the JD (U), however, is unlikely to threaten the BJP, which has 37 MLAs in the 60-member House, though seven of them belonging to the Kuki-Zo community have stayed aloof since ethnic conflict broke out in May 2023.

The BJP also enjoys the support of the Naga People's Front (NPF), which has four MLAs following the death a few days ago of N. Kayisii.

In a letter to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Wednesday, State party president Kshetrimayum Biren Singh said the JD(U) no longer supports the BJP-led Manipur government and its lone MLA "shall be treated as an Opposition MLA in the House". The JD (U) had won six seats in the 2022 Assembly election but five of its MLAs joined the BJP later. "The trial of the five MLAs is pending under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution of India before the Speaker's Tribunal," the State JD(U) president's letter said.

The party's national spokesperson Rajiv Ranjan Prasad called the reports on the issue "misleading and baseless". "The president of the Manipur unit of the party has been relieved of his post. We have supported the NDA and our support to the NDA government in Manipur will continue even in future."

Mr. Prasad said the Manipur unit did not consult the central leadership of the party. "He [the Manipur JD(U) chief] had written the letter on his own. This is an act of blatant indiscipline," Mr. Prasad said. "We are with the NDA and the State unit will continue to serve the people of Manipur towards the development of the State," he added.

Meanwhile, the Congress took the opportunity to take potshots at the growing differences between the BJP and JD(U). "Today, JD(U) withdrew support to the BJP Government in Manipur. Yesterday, JD(U) opposed the new UGC Rules which have been announced by the Modi Government to control top appointments to all universities. Is this heralding political climate change?" Congress general secretary (communication) Jairam Ramesh wrote in a post on social media platform X.

Stay extended on defamation case against Tharoor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday extended the stay on criminal defamation proceedings against Congress MP Shashi Tharoor for the "scorpion sitting on a Shivling" remark about Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A Bench headed by Justice Hrishikesh Roy adjourned the case after counsel for the complainant sought more time to file his counter-affidavit. When counsel for Mr. Tharoor objected that there had been repeated requests for adjournments, Justice Roy responded that there was already a stay order in place since September 2024.

In a previous hearing, the court had orally asked whether the metaphor suggested "invincibility" and could be considered derogatory. The case is based on a complaint filed by BJP leader Rajiv Babbar in November 2018.

Court reserves verdict in M.F. Husain paintings case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Wednesday reserved the judgment on whether to register an FIR against the owners of Delhi Art Gallery for displaying "offensive" paintings by artist M.F. Husain.

Judicial Magistrate Sahil Monga of the Patiala House Court reserved the order on a plea filed by the Delhi-based advocate Amita Sachdeva who claimed that the artworks depicted Hindu deities with nude figures.

The gallery officials, however, denied the display of the said artworks.

Counsel representing Ms. Sachdev argued that Husain might be a great artist, it does not justify insulting Hindu deities.

The court on Monday ordered the Delhi Police to seize the paintings.

Eyewitnesses recall moments of horror

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Blood on tracks: People gather at the site where several passengers of a train were run over by another train on the adjacent tracks in Jalgaon district of north Maharashtra on Wednesday. PTI

Eyewitnesses struggled to recount the horror when a train ran over several passengers who rushed out of the Lucknow-Mumbai Pushpak Express following rumours of a fire on Wednesday evening.

At least 12 people lost their lives and 10 were injured.

"It was a horrible scene when I reached there. The body parts of the deceased were scattered all over the place. We called for ambulances. The mortal remains of the deceased were gathered and were sent to hospital. The injured were rushed to nearby hospitals, and are reportedly out of danger. We are taking care of their relatives. The Chief Minister is in constant touch with me," said Maharashtra Minister Girish Mahajan, who reached the spot some time after the accident.

Asked about the cause of the panic, he said, "There was no fire, but a rumour spread about it. Someone pulled the chain. Over 200 people deboarded the train because of it. A bigger tragedy was avoided," he told *The Hindu* from Pachora.

A passenger from Lucknow said panic ensued when an onboard vendor shouted that the train was on fire. "Some passengers immediately pulled the alarm chain, bringing the train to a halt. As soon as it stopped, people began disembarking and running in fear. Tragically, a train on the adjacent track struck those who had stepped down," he said.

"Only about 40 passengers from three coaches near the engine disembarked. It's terrifying to think what could have happened if more passengers had done the same," the witness said.

Another passenger alleged that amid the chaos, personal belongings, including bags and phones, were found missing when they briefly reentered the train to collect their items.

Missing items

"We got down as soon as the train stopped. Later, when we went back to collect our belongings, we found the bags and mobile phones were missing," he said.

"A few passengers sitting at the doors mistakenly believed the train was on fire and jumped off, landing on the tracks of an oncoming train from the opposite direction, the Karnataka Express, as per the initial enquiry," Jalgaon Superintendent Of Police Maheshwar Reddy told *The Hindu*.

Leaders across political lines expressed grief.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray called for better safety measures. Congress leaders Nana Patole and Vijay Wadettiwar criticised the government's handling of railway safety.

Dallewal shifted to makeshift hospital, Punjab informs SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bench advised the farmers' leader to consult specialist doctors before talks with the Centre scheduled for February 14. ANI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday recorded a submission by the Punjab government that farmers' leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal has accepted medical aid and shifted to a makeshift hospital 50 metres from the protest site at Khanauri after meeting with a high-level delegation from the Union government.

Terming the development "positive", a Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant also took on record Punjab Advocate-General Gurminder Singh's submission that farmers have agreed to meet for talks with the Centre and other authorities scheduled for February 14 in Chandigarh.

Mr. Singh said over 110 other farmers' leaders, also on hunger strike along with Mr. Dallewal, have broken their fast.

The Bench advised Mr. Dallewal to reach Chandigarh two days before the scheduled talks and consult specialist doctors at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh to effectively participate in the meeting.

Action in abeyance

The court ordered the contempt action against the Chief Secretary and the Director-General of Police of Punjab to be kept in abeyance and dispensed with their personal appearance through video conferencing. The contempt action was initiated following their inability to convince Mr. Dallewal to access medical aid despite repeated orders from the court.

The court listed the case again for February-end.

"We hope stakeholders participate and take decisions which would benefit national interest," Justice Kant said.

The farmers, demanding the enactment of a law that ensures a guaranteed minimum price for crops, have been camping at the Shambhu and Kanauri boundaries of Punjab and Haryana ever since their march to Delhi was stopped in February 2024.

In previous hearings, the court had questioned the Centre's persisting reluctance to come out with a statement that its "doors are open" to consider the "genuine grievances" of protesting farmers.

Four more fall sick in Badhal; govt. declares containment zones

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

A patient from Badhal being taken to hospital. PTI

Four more people have fallen ill at Badhal village in Rajouri, prompting authorities to declare "containment zones" and seal the houses of affected families on Wednesday.

Seventeen people had died and at least 31 have been affected by an inexplicable illness over the past 50 days. Aijaz Ahmad, 25, a resident of Badhal, was transferred to the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh on Tuesday night "after his symptoms deteriorated". Three additional local persons were taken to a hospital in Jammu city on Wednesday.

"It is the biggest emergency we have ever faced. Earlier tests conducted on affected individuals returned negative for any bacterial or viral infections. However, with more people falling ill, the mystery has deepened," Javaid Iqbal, a local MLA, said.

Badhal village has experienced multiple waves of deaths since December 7, resulting in 17 fatalities, including 13 children and a pregnant woman.

Most patients report high fever, body aches, vomiting and unconsciousness.

A police-led Special Investigation Team (SIT), along with a multi-disciplinary team from the Ministry of Home Affairs is investigating these deaths "from multiple angles". The government has already prohibited local people from drawing water from a local spring and banned community feasting until the probe concludes.

CBI seeks death sentence for convict in R.G. Kar case

Devesh K. Pandey
Shiv Sahay Singh
NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

Activists and members of society had held several demonstrations since August 2024, seeking justice for the victim. FILE PHOTO

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday filed an appeal before the Calcutta High Court seeking enhancement of life imprisonment to death penalty for the convict in the rape-murder of a doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

Earlier in the day, the CBI, through Deputy Solicitor-General Rajdeep Majumdar, opposed the West Bengal government's petition seeking enhancement of punishment for the convict Sanjay Roy, a former civic police volunteer.

The State's Advocate-General, Kishore Dutta, had on Tuesday approached the Division Bench of Justices Debangshu Basak and Mohammad Shabbar Rashidi stating that the life sentence to the convict was inadequate and sought capital punishment.

The Deputy Solicitor-General opposed the State's government plea before the Division Bench maintaining that the West Bengal government did not have the right to appeal the trial court order on the ground of inadequacy. Mr. Majumdar said the CBI had prayed for awarding capital punishment to Roy before the trial court.

The Division Bench said it would hear the CBI, the victim's family and the convict through their lawyers before deciding on the admission of an appeal filed by the West Bengal government. The court said it would hear the matter on January 27.

The Additional District and Sessions Judge of Sealdah, Anirban Das, while sparing the hangman's noose for the convict Sanjay Roy, had said in the judgment that "we must rise above the primitive instinct of a life for a life".

"Our duty is not to match brutality with brutality, but to elevate humanity through wisdom and compassion," the judge noted in the order.

The court, in a detailed 172-page order, stated that this case does not meet the stringent criteria for being classified as "rarest of the rare" and it would be "inappropriate to accede to the prosecution's request for the death penalty".

Ensure victory for BJP in Delhi poll, Modi urges party workers

PM lists 'failures' of AAP-led Delhi govt. in past 10 years; addressing cadre under '*Mera Booth Sabse Majboot*' programme, he asks them to expose the lies of AAP, adding that the promises of the ruling party and the Congress were unbelievable

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday asked Bharatiya Janata Party workers to ensure that every booth got a record number of votes for the party and that the Aam Aadmi Party was defeated in the Delhi Assembly election.

He was addressing the Delhi BJP cadre in an interactive webcast under the "*Mera Booth Sabse Majboot*" programme.

The Prime Minister listed the "failures" of the AAP-led Delhi government in the past 10 years, as well as the "achievements" of the BJP-led Union government. He said all the existing schemes in the capital would be implemented.

Mr. Modi said: "The strength of the organisation in Delhi is that there are three generations of workers at every booth. This power will give the BJP a huge victory. Your hard work at the booth is going to be a huge win. The workers of the country have been learning by watching the workers of Delhi. The victory will break all the polling records this time."

Boosting morale: Prime Minister Narendra Modi told BJP workers that their hard work at the booths during the upcoming Delhi Assembly election will bring success to the party. FILE PHOTO

The Delhi polls are slated for February 5 and the results will be declared on February 8. The BJP is making attempts to defeat the ruling AAP to form a government in the capital after nearly 28 years. Mr. Modi asked party workers to expose the lies of the AAP. Delhi must be freed from the disaster party.

He said the AAP was making new announcements every day because it knew that it would be defeated in the polls.

He said the people of Delhi remembered the deceptions of the AAP; the party built "Sheesh Mahal" and ate poor people's money, and committed scams with no shame.

Purvanchal voters

Appealing to voters from Purvanchal, the Prime Minister said the AAP was full of hatred for them, and Purvanchalis were driven out of Delhi during COVID-19. And even during the Chhath Puja, visuals of the Yamuna in Delhi sent shockwaves to the country, he said.

After a BJP worker spoke about water shortage, Mr. Modi said, "Alcohol is available in Delhi but not water." Mr. Modi, while interacting with a woman party worker, said the promises that the AAP and the Congress were making were unbelievable.

The Prime Minister said: "The youth of Delhi are extremely troubled, and they will only give their vote to the NDA government this time. They are tired of the lies of AAP-da, and know if BJP comes to power, BJP will bring great changes, make Delhi a start-up hub."

"The BJP will ensure that it will fix all the government schools in Delhi which is why we have promised KG-to-PG education in our Sankalp Patra," he added.

Centre must announce benefits for middle class in Budget, says AAP chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Union government must dedicate the upcoming Budget to the middle class.

The former CM said that the promises made by AAP ahead of the February 5 Assembly election in Delhi, such as monthly aid for women under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana and free treatment for senior citizens under the Sanjeevani Yojana, will also help the middle class.

Mr. Kejriwal said the Delhi government had extended various benefits to the middle class in healthcare and education, among other sectors, and asked the Centre to do the same.

He made seven demands from the Centre, including allotting 10% of the Budget each to education and health.

AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal with Delhi CM Atishi at a press conference in New Delhi on Wednesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

"The relationship between the Central government and the middle class is quite peculiar. These people do nothing for the middle class, but whenever the government needs something, they target the middle class and impose taxes on them," Mr. Kejriwal said at a press conference.

He added, "The middle class pays billions in taxes, but what does it get in return? Nothing. The Indian middle class has become just an ATM for the Centre."

The AAP national convener also demanded that the Centre stop levying taxes on health insurance and essential items, and raise the tax-free income ceiling to ₹10 lakh.

"For senior citizens, there should be strong retirement and pension plans and free healthcare at private and government hospitals across the country. I also demand that the Centre resume providing 50% concession for senior citizens in railway fare," he added.

Mr. Kejriwal urged people from the middle class to voice their concerns on the portal – middleclassmanifesto.com.

Need more time to propose amendments to Waqf Bill: Opposition to panel Chair

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Joint Parliamentary Committee examining the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 has completed its tour to meet stakeholders in various parts of the country, and is now being called to Delhi for a meeting on Friday and Saturday to discuss amendments to the legislation.

Opposition MPs have demanded a postponement to allow them more time to propose the amendments, asking why the committee's Bharatiya Janata Party leadership was in such a hurry to wrap up the deliberations.

Representing the Opposition's concerns, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam MP A. Raja shot off a letter to the committee's chair and BJP MP, Jagdambika Pal, pointing out that panel members ended their tour to meet stakeholders in Patna, Kolkata and Lucknow only on Tuesday.

"It is very strange that the next dates for sitting of JPC were hurriedly announced without any formal discussion when the JPC was already on tour," Mr. Raja noted.

DMK MP A. Raja and other Opposition members on the Waqf panel leaving to meet Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. FILE PHOTO

Even during the panel's meeting in Lucknow, Mr. Raja said, the members had pointed out that the next proposed meeting on January 24 and 25 was not practical, since the MPs also have commitments in their own constituencies.

'No time'

The schedule leaves little time to gather evidence and go through the deliberations that took place over the several meetings in Delhi and other States. The questions asked during the meetings in Patna, Kolkata and Lucknow have not yet been answered, the Opposition leader said.

The DMK MP also recalled Mr. Pal's assurance to positively consider the members' request after consultation with the government. "Unless the sittings of the JPC is postponed, the purpose of the Constitution of the JPC itself will be defeated as it raises the doubts in the minds of the people of India that the secular fabrics of the Constitution embodied in its preamble itself are endangered and the due process in conducting the JPC is also not followed," Mr. Raja wrote.

MPs concerned over high and 'arbitrary' user development fee charged by airports

Sobhana K. Nair
Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Slamming the "arbitrary" user development fee (UDF) charged by several airport operators across the country, Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Wednesday directed the Airport Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) to give a detailed reply in writing, within 15 days on the criteria used to calculate it, the total revenue earned and the corresponding amenities and infrastructure made for the passengers using this revenue.

In the first PAC meeting headed by Congress leader K.C. Venugopal on the subject "Levy and regulation of fees, tariffs, user charges etc. on public infrastructure and other public utilities", members pulled up the Directorate General of Civil Aviation for showing laxity in tariff regulation.

Fee issue: Airlines collect the UDF from passengers and pass on to the airport operator. FILE PHOTO

The UDF is levied on passengers and is part of the airline ticket fare. The fee is collected by the airline and passed on to the airport operator. According to sources, the members across party lines raised the issue of high UDF especially in the context of increasing number of airports being operated by private entities.

"The oral replies by the AERA representatives were less than convincing," a member said.

Questions were also raised on whether the 2008 legislation that established the AERA has outlived its utility and whether it needs to be suitably amended. The AERA has been asked to submit a reply to this too.

Fee raised in June

In June last year, the AERA raised the UDF for the Adani-controlled Thiruvananthapuram airport by 50%, from ₹506 to ₹770, for departing domestic travellers, with further annual hikes. A UDF of ₹330 for arriving passengers was introduced for the first time, and landing charges for aircraft tripled.

The Hindu reported on March 19 that the AERA criticised Adani Airports Holdings Ltd. for underprojecting non-aeronautical revenue, which helps subsidise passenger and airline costs, noting it was lower than pre-privatisation levels despite the pandemic. In its final tariff order, the AERA revised the airport's non-aero revenue projections from ₹102 crore to ₹392 crore.

The panel discussed at length the exorbitant air fares, especially in select sectors during the festivals and holidays.

It, according to sources, pulled up the DGCA. "To shrug off responsibility claiming that the fares are regulated by the market will not do," an Opposition member said.

GDP growth figures sign of slowdown, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The "disappointing" growth numbers of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the second quarter are not a blip but a clear indication of a slowdown in the economy, the Congress said on Wednesday.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh, citing an article in a newspaper, posted on X that the fallout of limited job creation and muted wage growth can be seen in the greater recourse to debt. He said the government was trying to pass the buck on to the RBI's interest rate regime.

KANNUR International Airport
KANNUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED
Tender No. 2025_KIAL_**728508_1**
Tenders are invited by Managing Director, KIAL for the following work:
Selection of Advertising Licensee to Design, Fit-out, Develop, Operate, Maintain and Manage the Advertising Space(s) at Kannur International Airport.
Last date of bid submission: **13 February 2025, 15:00 hrs**
For more details please visit:
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

Telangana Tourism Development Corporation Ltd
"Tourism House" # 3-5-891, Himayatnagar, Hyderabad - 500029.
e-procurement Tender Notice No.09/EE/SD/TGTDC/2024-25, Dt.22.01.2025

Sl.No.	Name of the Work	Est. Cost Rs. in Lakhs	Bid Downloading Start Date
1	2	3	4
2	Selection of Agency under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme for Development, Operations, Maintenance and Management of Bhongir Fort Experiential Zone, experience in Bhongir, Telangana State.	5681.85	24-01-2025

Bids are invited on e-Procurement platform from eligible contractors. Further details can be seen @ e-procurement market place www.tender.telangana.gov.in
DIPR RO NO. 924-PP/CL-Agency/Advt-1/2024-2025 Dt 22-01-2025 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, TGTDC Ltd, Hyderabad.**

AMARAVATI DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (ADCL)
54-15-1, Venkateswara Nagar, Near Yalamanchili Complex, Sonovision Building, Ring Road, Vijayawada, NTR Dist, Andhra Pradesh-520008. CIN Number: U93000AP2015SGC105535
NIT No. 210/ADCL/IPD/2025 **Dated: 22.01.2025**
Request for Proposal (RFP) for WORLD BANK and ADB financed Amaravati Capital City Development Program related to Appointment of Consultant for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and Tender Document for (A) Flood Pumping Station at Undavalli & (B) Interim Storm Water Pumping Station at Gravity Canal in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh. The RFP can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from **23.01.2025 to 14.02.2025 up to 15.30 Hrs.** The due date for submission a Bid is **14.02.2025 up to 16.00 Hrs,** Technical Bid opening is on **14.02.2025 @16.30 Hrs.** For further details please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** and www.adcl.in
Sd/- Chairperson and Managing Director, ADCL, Vijayawada

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT, TELANGANA
Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, H.no 5-9-64/1,OPP. L.B.Stadium, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad
Lr No FM/ CSS-SMAM/Budget 2024-25, Dt 22-01-2025
Short E - Tender
Interested bidders are invited to participate in short e-tenders towards empanelment for supply of Farm Implements, Machinery, PP Equipment, Water Carrying Pipes and Diesel/Electric Pumpsets for the Year 2024-25, & Till 31-03-2026. Rate contract offer (RCO) starting date is 23.01.2025 (10.30 AM) and schedule closing date is 07.02.2025 (5.30 PM). Kindly check the Telangana e-procurement portal for further details at https://tender.telangana.gov.in.
R.O. No. : 926-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25 **Sd/- Director of Agriculture, Hyderabad**

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
Regd. Office :- PSEB H. O. Building, The Mall, Patiala
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Contact NO. 96461-18773
TENDER ENQUIRY No. : QQ-2358/PO-P
Chief Purchase Officer/ MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd floor, Multistory Building, The Mall, Patiala, invites E-Tender for Procurement of 19,900 Nos. 10.97 Mtr. long PCC Poles having 363 kg working load (as per REC design) against PSPCL Tender Enquiry QQ-2358/PO-P. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 22.01.2025 onwards.
NOTE: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**
C-45/25 **76155/12/3834/2023/41026**

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : Re-Tender No 43 and 44/2024-25/ SE/PHC/ALP/ RC/RT-1, **KIIFB Kuttanad Drinking water project IInd phase in Alappuzha District - Package 3 and 8 - Construction of OHSR, Supplying laying of Transmission main and distribution network, EMD** : Rs. 500000, **Tender fee** : Rs. 19518, **Last Date for submitting Tender** : 12-02-2025 02:00:pm, **Phone** : 0477-2237954.
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in**, **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
KWA-JB-GL-6-1068-2024-25 **Superintending Engineer, PH Circle Office, Alappuzha**

भारतीय वानिकी अनुसंधान एवं शिक्षा परिषद्
(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार का एक स्वायत्त निकाय)
INDIAN COUNCIL OF FORESTRY RESEARCH & EDUCATION
(An Autonomous Body of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India)
पो0आ0 न्यू फॉरेस्ट, देहरादून – 248006 (उत्तराखण्ड)
P.O. New Forest, Dehra Dun – 248006 (Uttarakhand)
तिथि विस्तार सूचना
विज्ञप्ति संख्या 32–8 / 2024–भा.वा.अ.शि.प.(उ0महा0नि0–अनु0)
DATE EXTENSION NOTICE
Advt. No. 09/DDG(Res) & Dir-IWST/AFRI/HFRI/2024-ICFRE
भारतीय वानिकी अनुसंधान एंव शिक्षा परिषद देहरादून के अन्तर्गत निम्न पदो को प्रतिनियुक्ति के आधार पर भरने हेतु आवेदन आमंत्रित किए गए थे।
1. उपमहानिदेशक (अनुसंधान), भा.वा.अ.शि.प., देहरादून – 7वे वेतन आयोग के वेतन स्तर 15 के वेतनमान मे
2. निदेशक, काष्ठ विज्ञान प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, बेंगलुरु – 7वे वेतन आयोग के वेतन स्तर 15 के वेतनमान मे
3. निदेशक, शुष्क वन अनुसंधान संस्थान, जोधपुर – 7वे वेतन आयोग के वेतन स्तर 15 के वेतनमान मे
4. निदेशक, हिमालयन वन अनुसंधान संस्थान, शिमला – 7वे वेतन आयोग के वेतन स्तर 14 के वेतनमान मे
इस विज्ञापन के अनुसार आवेदन जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि जो कि 11.03.2024 तक थी को दिनांक 10.02.2025 तक विस्तारित किया जाता है। अन्य नियम व शर्तें पूर्व में प्रकाशित विज्ञापन के अनुसार रहेंगी। उपरोक्त पद हेतु इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी भा0वा0अ0शि0प0 की वेबसाइट **http://www.icfre.org** में दिये गये विस्तृत विज्ञापन के अनुसार आवेदन कर सकते है।
Applications were invited for filling up of following post(s) on deputation basis at Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun.
1. Deputy Director General (Research), ICFRE (HQ), Dehradun – Pay Level 15 of 7th CPC Pay Matrix
2. Director, Institute of Wood Science and Technology, Bengaluru – Pay Level 15 of 7th CPC Pay Matrix
3. Director, Arid Forest Research Institute, Jodhpur – Pay Level 15 of 7th CPC Pay Matrix
4. Director, Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla – Pay Level 14 of 7th CPC Pay Matrix
As per the advertisement the last date for receipt of application which was 11.03.2024 has now been extended till 10.02.2025.
The interested candidates may apply for the aforesaid post as per detailed advertisement available on ICFRE website **http://www.icfre.org**
सचिव, भा0वा0अ0शि0प0
Secretary, ICFRE

TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LIMITED (TCGL)
(A Government of Gujarat undertaking)
Udyog Bhavan, Block No. 16, 4th Floor, Sector - 11, Gandhinagar - 382 011
Website: https://www.gujarattourism.com
Gujarat Tourism
Expression of Interest (EoI) for Website and Mobile Application Development of TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LIMITED (TCGL).
Gujarat Tourism invites Expressions of Interest (EoI) from experienced and innovative IT firms for the development of a new website and mobile application. The project aims to enhance the digital presence and user experience for tourists exploring Gujarat.
EOI documents shall be available and download from the websites: **https://www.gujarattourism.com** from **23/01/2025 onwards.**
The last date for submission of the **(EOI) for Website and Mobile Application Development (physical only) is 04/02/2025 up to 3:00 PM in a seal covered, addressed to below: -**
General manager (Finance/IT),
Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited,
Udyog Bhavan, Block No. 16,
4th Floor, Sector-11, Gandhinagar - 382 010 **Managing Director**

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED, REGION AJMER
Telephone No. 0145-2628475, Fax No. 0145-2970247,
e-mail : aceregionajmer@gmail.com
No. F.()/Ar.MP/2024-2025/13330-13335 Date: 13/01/2025
CORRIGENDUM-1 (NIT No. 03/2024-2025)
In continuation to this, office NIT No. 03/2024-2025, issued vide this office Rajkaj No. 12408110 dated 13.12.2024 for the work of "Retrofitting work for providing water supply through FHTCs in 411 Main Habitations & 418 Other Habitations of Sub Divisions Peeplu, Todaraisingh & Malpura. (Dist. Tonk) under Jal Jeevan Mission with Operation and Maintenance for Ten (10) Years After Defect Liability Period of One (1) Year (NIT No.03/2024-25; Estimated Cost Rs.275.08 Crores).", following amendments are hereby notified:

As per Published Information	Now amended as
Following bids are invited from interested bidders up to 14.01.2025 Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.	Following bids are invited from interested bidders up to 29.01.2025 Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.

All other terms, conditions and stipulations of the original NIT shall remain unchanged.
UBN No. PHE2425WLOB07055
DIPR/C/13029/18/12/2024 **(Ram Chandra Rar)**
Addl. Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/728/2025 **PHED, Region, Ajmer**

INBRIEF

Junior doctors withdraw cease-work in Midnapore

Protesting junior doctors at Midnapore Medical College and Hospital in West Bengal late on Tuesday night withdrew their cease-work protest over the suspension of doctors in a case involving expired saline. A suspended doctor has also moved the Calcutta High Court demanding protection from police action. The developments came after 12 doctors, including six junior doctors, in the hospital were suspended after alleged "medical negligence" over expired Ringer Lactate fluid administered to them, which led to a woman's death post-childbirth and four post-partum mothers falling critically ill on January 9.

Electoral bonds: plea seeks review of top court's order

A petition filed in the Supreme Court on Wednesday sought a review of its order passed in August 2024 dismissing pleas for confiscation of ₹16,518 crore received by political parties under the 2018 electoral bonds scheme. The top court, on August 2 last year, rejected a batch of pleas including the one filed by Khem Singh Bhati, who filed the review, seeking a court-monitored probe into the scheme and observed that it could not order a roving inquiry. The review petition, filed through advocate Jayesh K. Unnikrishnan and settled by senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, sought a recall of the judgment that dismissed a previous petition seeking confiscation of funds received under the scheme. PTI

Two buildings in Kolkata tilting against each other

Two multi-storey buildings in Kolkata's Tangra area have been found tilting precariously against each other, leading to panic among residents. Located on Christopher Road in Ward 58 of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, one of the two buildings houses residents, while the adjoining building – six-storey tall – is under construction. Sources in the civic body said it is likely that the residential building will be demolished first, and residents will be asked to vacate their homes soon given the risk it poses. Till now, no fatalities or losses have been reported from the site.

Man found dead after alleging harassment by wife and kin

A 28-year-old man in Madhya Pradesh's Indore killed himself after accusing his estranged wife and her family of harassment, the police said on Wednesday. The deceased had also requested the government to amend the laws on marital disputes, the police said on Wednesday. According to the police, Nitin Padiyar, a resident of Yadavanand Nagar, was found dead in his house on Monday night. A note was recovered from the spot which named his wife and members of her family. He got married in 2019. Indore Zone 3 Deputy Commissioner of Police Hansraj Singh said the police were analysing the note. *(AASRA suicide prevention helpline number: 91-9820466726)*

Flagship scheme for girl child has helped defeat bias: Modi

Districts with historically low child sex ratios have reported significant improvement, awareness campaigns have instilled a deeper sense of the importance of gender equality, says Prime Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Asserting that the *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao* (Save and educate the girl child) campaign had helped overcome gender bias, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said districts with historically low child sex ratios had shown remarkable improvement since the campaign was launched a decade ago.

The scheme, launched by the Prime Minister at Panipat in Haryana on January 22, 2015, addresses the declining child sex ratio (CSR) and related issues of women empowerment. It is a tri-ministerial effort of the Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare, and Education.

The key elements of the scheme include enforcement of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, a nationwide awareness and advocacy campaign, and multi-sectoral action in select 100 districts (low CSR) in the first phase.

"Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the people and various community service organisations, *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* has achieved remarkable milestones," Mr. Modi said in a post on X.

The scheme was launched in 2015 to address the declining child sex ratio and related issues of women empowerment. FILE PHOTO

"Districts with historically low child sex ratios have reported significant improvement, and awareness campaigns have instilled a deeper sense of the importance of gender equality," he said.

"I compliment all stakeholders who have made this movement vibrant at the grassroots level. Let us continue to protect the rights of our daughters, ensure their education and create a society where they can thrive without any discrimination," Mr. Modi added.

Rise in enrolment: Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the campaign had given a new dimension to the rights, education, and respect of daughters in the country.

"Today, there has been an increase in the enrolment rate of girls in schools and an unprecedented improvement in the sex ratio. Today daughters are increasing the country's prestige by playing a leading role in every field," Mr. Shah said on X.

At a special event to mark the 10th anniversary of the programme in the national capital, Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda underscored the progress made in critical sectors such as health and education.

"The success of *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* scheme is evident in the substantial improvements in child sex ratio, institutional deliveries, and access to healthcare services for girls. The Government of India is committed to ensuring that every girl child receives the care and opportunities she deserves to grow into a leader of tomorrow," he said.

The national sex ratio at birth has improved from 918 in 2014-15 to 930 in 2023-24.

The gross enrolment ratio of girls at the secondary level has risen from 75.51% to 78%, and institutional deliveries have surged from 61% to 97.3%. Additionally, first-trimester antenatal care registrations have increased from 61% to 80.5%, according to an official statement released after the event.

Kharge questions BJP about crimes against women

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Mallikarjun Kharge

As the Centre's flagship programme *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* completed a decade on Wednesday, the Congress asked why the BJP had adopted a policy to "save the criminals" instead.

"Ten years of *Beti Bachao*, our three questions to Modi*ji* – Why did the BJP adopt the policy of 'save the criminals' instead of 'save the daughters'? When will the women of Manipur get justice? Whether it is the Dalit daughter of Hathras or the daughter of Unnao, or our champion female wrestler, why has the BJP always protected criminals?" Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said in a post on X.

Mr. Kharge asked why were 43 crimes against women recorded in India every hour. "Every day, 22 crimes are registered against women and children of the most vulnerable Dalit-tribal class of our country. Modi*ji* has spoken about women's safety many times in his speeches from the Red Fort, but why is there a difference between his words and actions?" he said.

Until 2019, almost 80% of the funds allocated for the scheme was just spent on media advertising, the Congress chief said.

"When this fact was exposed by the Parliamentary Standing Committee, the funds used for the scheme were cut by a massive 63% between 2018-19 and 2022-23, and later by merging it with a scheme called 'Sambal' under 'Mission Shakti', the Modi government stopped providing the data spent on the *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao* scheme," Mr. Kharge said.

The Congress chief asked if the mere act of writing *Beti Bachao* on the back of every truck or on every wall had actually stopped crimes against women, provided them with employment opportunities, offered better health facilities, or given women justice for atrocities committed against them.

Centre announces hike in MSP for jute by ₹315 a quintal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has fixed the minimum support price (MSP) of raw jute for the 2025-26 marketing season at ₹5,650 a quintal, an increase of ₹315 over the price in 2024-25.

Announcing the decision at a press conference here on Wednesday, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said the new MSP will ensure a return of 66.8% over the average cost of production and will benefit jute growers.

"The approved MSP of raw jute for marketing season 2025-26 is in line with the principle of fixing MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times all India weighted average cost of production as announced by the Government in the Budget 2018-19," the Centre said in a release. "Government of India has increased MSP of raw jute from ₹2,400 per quintal in 2014-15 to ₹5,650 per quintal in 2025-26, registering an increase of ₹3,250 per quintal (2.35 times)," the press release added.

The government added that it paid ₹1,300 crore to jute growers between 2014-15 and 2024-25 for the MSP, while it was ₹441 crore during the 2004-05 to 2013-14 period.

"The livelihood of 40 lakh farm families directly or indirectly depends on jute industry. About four lakh workers get direct employment in jute mills and trade in jute. Last year, jute was procured from 1.7 lakh farmers," the Centre said.

The Jute Corporation of India (JCI) will continue as the Union government's nodal agency to undertake price support operations.

National Health Mission has curbed several public health concerns, says Centre's report

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The National Health Mission (NHM) has significantly contributed to improving India's public health, including lowering of the maternal mortality ratio, incidence of tuberculosis (TB), and sickle cell anaemia.

It has also contributed to expanding human resources in the field while fostering an integrated response to health emergencies, the Union government said on Wednesday in its assessment report (2021-24) presented to the Union Cabinet.

Listing out key achievements of the NHM in the past three years, the Centre noted that there had been a significant increase in human resources within the healthcare sector. "In FY 2021-22, NHM facilitated the engagement of 2.69 lakh additional healthcare workers, including general duty medical officers, specialists, staff nurses, AYUSH doctors, allied healthcare workers, and public health managers. Additionally, 90,740 community health officers (CHOs) were engaged. This number grew in subsequent years, with 4.21 lakh additional healthcare professionals engaged in FY 2022-23, including 1.29 lakh CHOs, and 5.23 lakh workers engaged in FY 2023-24, which included 1.38 lakh CHOs," the report stated.

With NHM, maternal mortality ratio has declined by 83% since 1990, which is higher than the global decline of 45%

It further noted that under NHM, the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has declined by 83% since 1990, which is higher than the global decline of 45%. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has fallen from 39 per 1,000 live births in 2014 to 28 in 2020.

Moreover, the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) decreased from 2.3 in 2015 to 2.0 in 2020, according to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5). These improvements indicate that India is on track to meet its U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets for maternal, child, and infant mortality well ahead of 2030. The NHM has also been instrumental in the elimination and control of various diseases, including the incidence of TB.

NIA conducts searches over grenade attack case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday searched multiple locations linked to the banned terror outfit Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) across three States and a Union Territory, in connection with the Chandigarh grenade attack case.

The operation by the Central agency covered various locations in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Chandigarh.

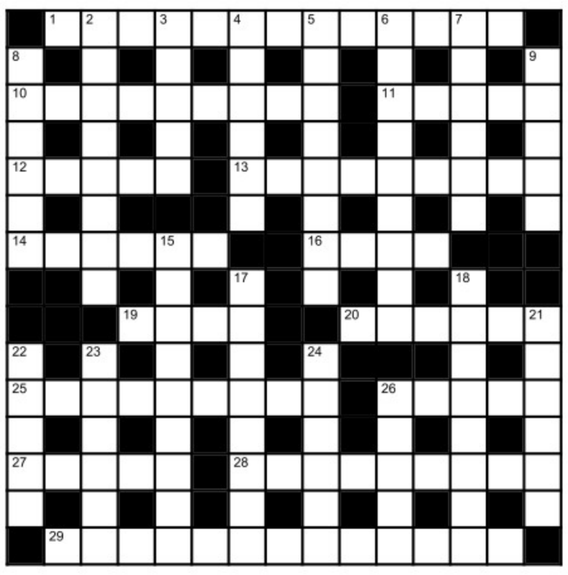
"The searches were conducted on the premises of suspects linked to U.S.-based terrorist Harpreet Singh, aka Happy Passia, in the Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Bathinda, and Ferozepur districts of Punjab, Lakhimpur Kheri district in U.P., Rudrapur district in Uttarakhand, and in Chandigarh," the NIA said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14389

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Trainee at 1, working with a league that's global (13)
10 Trouble! Umbrage in HR for food (9)
11 Fellow rides horse into vacant observatory, as it is cloudy (5)
12 Message on medium that's spoken (5)
13 Hector altering square shapes (9)
14 Sister-in-law cut deeply by a metal (6)
16 Placed face on the other side (4)
19 Satisfactory show (4)
20 Hold stranger in shower (6)
25 Eva's talk about power was dry (9)
26 Joker working in train (5)
27 Zepto trading bear and another animal (5)
28 Explain 38% discount in interest given before time (9)
29 Somehow I termed people to have willpower (13)

Down

2 To work on sum, learn numbers (8)
3 If it is taken out tequila and distilled, it will be the same (5)
4 Deny scandal at New England (6)
5 Lit with beer and bit of rum, lousy, awful (8)
6 Unpleasant attack (9)
7 Investors giving answer across backstage (6)
8 Outside of CIT, chemistry is delivered as songs (6)
9 A nomad, fraud, heartless scally (5)
15 Lifting beer, boater is forced to be careful (9)
17 Creature on paper is moving at the corner (8)
18 Jumper is made by knitting angora in fine retreat (8)
21 At this age, one is saturnine typically, reserved (6)
22 Look, a zebra's head is inside, take it (5)
23 Rock children's game (6)
24 Lost to Dube at England, not entirely (6)
26 Fabric editor discarded was the most inferior (5)

SUDOKU

	7				9			4
		3		6		7	2	
			3	7				
	9		7	2	4			8
3			5	9	6		7	
				8	2			
	8	7		5		1		
1			9				6	

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

A	■	A	■	P	■	F	■	O
S	U	R	R	E	A	L	■	F
I	■	N	■	A	■	O	■	F
D	R	I	N	K	U	P	■	E
E	■	C	■	■	■	P	■	R
S	P	A	R	E	T	Y	R	E
■	■	■	■	P	■	■	■	R
T	R	E	M	O	L	O	■	S
O	■	L	■	X	■	F	■	■
G	I	D	D	Y	■	F	I	C
G	■	O	■	R	■	S	■	L
E	A	R	N	E	S	T	■	I
D	■	A	■	S	■	A	■	C
U	N	D	O	I	N	G	■	H
P	■	O	■	N	■	E	■	E

P	■	S	■	H				
A	I	R	W	A	Y			
■	F	■	C	■	E	■	S	
E	S	C	H	E	A	T		
■	R	■	A	■	T	■	E	
L	O	P	E	R				
■	I	■	E	■	I			
S	U	L	T	A	N	A		
■	L	■	■	■	■	■	■	
I	C	T	I	O	N	A	L	
L	■	■	■	E	■	O		
I	D	Y	L	L	I	C		
C	■	A	■	S	■	K		
H	O	W	C	O	M	E		
N	■	N	■	T				

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	3	7	4	9	6	1	8	2
2	8	9	5	3	1	7	6	4
1	6	4	7	8	2	5	9	3
8	4	5	3	6	7	9	2	1
7	9	6	1	2	4	8	3	5
3	1	2	8	5	9	6	4	7
4	7	3	9	1	8	2	5	6
9	2	1	6	4	5	3	7	8
6	5	8	2	7	3	4	1	9

FAITH

Yashodha, the torchbearer

Tiruppavai, Andal's composition, is a concise version of the Vedas and shows devotees the way to attain Krishna's feet, said Damal Perundevi.

The first few verses exemplify the five forms (*nilais*) of the Supreme. The first speaks of Narayana (para tatva), the second of vyuha; the third verse, *Ongi ulagalandha*, on Tiruvikrama is a reflection of vibhava state; in *Azhi mazhai Kanna*, Andal is referring to the antaryami state of the Lord. In the verse, *Mayanai mannu vada Madurai*, she is referring to archa state, referencing Mathura as his abode. Andal repeatedly reinforces the importance of namasankirtan and surrender, invoking devotees to take the bhakti highway to reach Krishna's feet.

Why does Andal wake up Nandagopala, Yashodha and Balarama? She does so in order to highlight the lofty, virtuous and disciplined characteristics of the three, aspects that everyone can develop and nurture. In "*Ambarame, thannere, sore, aramseyyum empuruman Nandagopala*", Andal says one cannot come across a more charitable person than Nandagopala. Krishna chose Vasudeva and Devaki as His birth parents, but opted to be raised by Nandagopala and Yashodha. *'Kombanarkellam kozhundhey, kula vilakke'*, sings Andal, of Yashodha. She is hailed as the torchbearer because she pointed everyone in the direction of Krishna. Narayana Bhattatri says Yashodha had the supreme fortune to cuddle Krishna on her lap, feed Him, sing lullabies, etc. Above all, He allowed Yashodha to bind Him. She is *Jagati Punyavanto jitaaha*, the most fortunate one on earth who was virtuous, having mastered all virtues.

INBRIEF

BPCL's Q3 consolidated net profit rises 20% to ₹3,806 cr.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) reported a 20% growth in consolidated net profit to ₹3,806 crore for the third quarter ended December 31, 2024, compared with ₹3,181 crore in the year-earlier period. Revenue from operations during the quarter, however, decreased to ₹1,27,551 crore from ₹1,29,985 crore in the year earlier. The BPCL board has also declared an interim dividend of ₹5 per equity share of a face value ₹10 each.

Reliance Consumer Products Ltd. acquires SIL Foods

Reliance Consumer Products Ltd. (RCPL) announced the acquisition of Mumbai-based SIL Foods for an undisclosed sum. The acquisition was part of RCPL's broader strategy to reinvigorate and modernise India's most beloved heritage brands, it said. Ajay Mariwala, SIL Foods' managing director said RCPL will infuse new life into the brand by expanding its reach. The firm produces fruit jams, soups, chutney, sauces, ginger garlic paste, and other products.

SEBI floats consultation paper on sachetisation of MFs

To increase the reach and facilitate participation from low-income groups in mutual funds, SEBI on Wednesday floated a consultation paper on 'sachetisation' of mutual funds (MFs). It proposed a sachetised mutual fund product – small ticket systematic investment plan (SIP) of ₹250. Further, small ticket SIPs can be offered in any scheme except for debt schemes, sectoral and thematic schemes, small-cap and mid-cap schemes under equity schemes category. PTI

Tax avoidance treaties: India sets new norms for claiming benefits

The Central Board of Direct Taxes has issued fresh guidelines for applying the Principal Purpose Test (PPT) provisions under Double Tax Avoidance Agreements or DTAAs; deals with Cyprus, Mauritius and Singapore to remain outside for now

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Income Tax department has come out with a fresh guidance note on applicability of Principal Purpose Test (PPT) for claiming tax treaty benefits, which will apply prospectively.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) in its guidance note on PPT also clarified the grandfathering provisions under the India-Cyprus Double Tax Avoidance Agreement (DTAA), and the similar pacts with Mauritius and

Singapore would stay outside the purview of the new PPT provisions. India has made certain treaty-specific bilateral commitments in the form of grandfathering provisions in the DTAAs signed with these three nations.

"These commitments, as reflected in the bilaterally agreed object and purpose of such grandfathering provisions, are not intended to interact with the PPT provision as such," the CBDT said.

The grandfathering provision in the treaties would be governed by the specific provisions specified in the respective DTAAs.

Deloitte India partner, Rohinton Sidhwa said the circular clarifies various aspects for interpreting the PPT that now featured in most Indian tax DTAAs.

Crucially, it establishes the primacy of the grandfathering article featuring in some treaties, namely Cyprus, Mauritius and Singapore. The circular protects such treaty-specific bilateral commitments and carves them out of the purview of the PPT provisions.

"This was a grey area when the new protocol was made public for the India Mauritius treaty. With this clarification, there is a likelihood that the protocol would be notified and go into effect in the coming financial year beginning April 1, 2025," he said.

Nangia Andersen LLP partner Vishwas Panjiar said as per the note, PPT provisions shall apply prospectively and would also not be applicable in cases where India has entered into treaty-specific bilateral commitments in the form of grandfathering.

"The guidelines nudge tax authorities to refer to BEPS Action Plan 6 as well as UN Model Tax Convention for supplementary source of guidance while deciding on invocation and application of PPT provisions," Mr. Panjiar added.

Demand sign: HUL volumes up 2% in Q3

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) major Hindustan Unilever Ltd. (HUL) reported a 19% growth in standalone net profit to ₹2,984 crore for the quarter ended December 31, 2024, compared with ₹2,509 crore in the year-earlier period.

The increase in profit was on account of the profit from the divestment of the Pureit business, while profit after tax before exceptional items was flat.

Turnover grew 2% at ₹45,680 crore driven by a 2% underlying volume

growth (UVG).

"FMCG demand trends remained subdued with continued moderation in urban growth, while rural sustained its gradual recovery. In this operating context, we delivered competitive growth by driving unmissable brand superiority, investing behind brands and capabilities whilst maintaining healthy margins," CEO and MD Rohit Jawa said.

During the quarter, the company's Home Care business witnessed an underlying sales growth (USG) of 6%, led by high-single digit UVG in fabric wash and household care.

The Beauty & Wellbeing segment reported a 1% growth, while UVG saw a low-single digit decline.

The Personal Care segment witnessed 4% decline with mid-single digit volume decline. The Foods business had a flat USG with mid-single digit price growth offset by decline in volumes. Revenue from the ice cream business remained flat year on year.

The Board of Directors of the company approved a scheme of arrangement, between HUL and its wholly owned subsidiary Kwality Wall's (India) Ltd. to demerge HUL's ice cream business into KWIL. The company also announced that it had signed a definitive agreement to acquire premium beauty brand Minimalist from Uprising Science Private Ltd. for ₹2,670 crore.

The board also approved the acquisition of the palm undertaking of Vishwatej Oil Industries for an unspecified amount.

HDFC Bank's Q3 net profit rises 2% to ₹16,736 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

HDFC Bank Ltd. reported a 2% growth in net profit for the third-quarter ended December 31, 2024, compared with ₹16,373 crore in the year-ago period.

Profit after tax, adjusted for trading and mark to market gains, prior year one-off provisions, and prior year tax credits, grew 13.6% over the quarter ended December 31, 2023, the private sector lender said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	76,405	0.75
US Dollar	86.35	0.26
Gold	82,730	0.76
Brent oil	79.36	-0.17

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2376.55	-7.75
Adani Ports	1102.25	-3.95
Apollo Hosp	6892.90	-26.25
Asian Paints	2262.10	1.75
Axis Bank	959.30	-10.90
Bajaj Auto	8460.85	-7.70
Bajaj Finserv	1743.30	26.30
Bajaj Finance	7397.15	105.50
Bharat Elec	270.35	-8.65
Bharti Airtel	1631.75	5.60
BPCL	277.60	-2.60
Britannia Ind	4956.70	52.85
Cipla	1439.40	11.40
Coal India	379.20	-2.35
Dr Reddys Lab	1296.25	8.10
Eicher Motors	5009.70	39.75
Grasim Ind	2388.15	20.65
HCL Tech	1827.70	25.30
HDFC Bank	1666.05	23.65
HDFC Life	618.20	-5.80
Hero MotoCorp	4055.70	30.90
Hindalco	613.45	-1.50
Hind Unilever	2342.95	2.45
ICICI Bank	1200.45	4.30
IndusInd Bank	970.95	10.50
Infosys	1856.45	55.75
ITC	437.00	-0.55
JSW Steel	919.40	-7.45
Kotak Bank	1917.50	24.20
L&T	3518.20	-22.90
M&M	2826.45	5.15
Maruti Suzuki	12020.35	136.65
NestleIndia	2207.80	11.35
NTPC	322.40	-1.90
ONGC	264.05	-1.75
PowerGrid Corp	297.55	-4.80
Reliance Ind	1277.10	3.40
SBI Life	1460.05	-6.50
State Bank	753.45	-5.60
Shriram Finance Ltd.	518.65	-1.65
Sun Pharma	1798.95	36.25
TataConsumerProduct	967.40	-4.70
Tata Motors	742.75	-18.00
Tata Steel	128.92	-0.78
TCS	4156.60	120.75
Tech Mahindra	1683.95	43.45
Titan	3356.45	3.10
Trent Ltd.	5626.35	-110.60
UltraTech Cement	10693.75	25.95
Wipro	309.10	10.75

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 22

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	86.12	86.44
Euro	89.93	90.27
British Pound	106.41	106.81
Japanese Yen (100)	55.21	55.42
Chinese Yuan	11.86	11.90
Swiss Franc	95.15	95.51
Singapore Dollar	63.63	63.88
Canadian Dollar	60.06	60.29
Malaysian Ringitt	19.40	19.50
Australian Dollar	54.11	54.31

Source:Indian Bank

Ashwini Vaishnaw steers Davos parleys

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has participated in a series of strategic meetings in Switzerland, underscoring India's commitment to fostering international collaboration and embracing innovative technologies in the railway sector, and also made a presentation on the Indian semiconductor ecosystem.

Before heading for the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2025 in Davos, Mr. Vaishnaw on Tuesday held several meetings. Speaking on the occasion, he said: "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always guided us to benchmark our efforts to the global bests. Today's visit is also in this direction. There is a lot of interest around the world for made in India products".

A presentation showcasing latest advancements in infrastructure diagnostics was held by the Swiss Federal Railways. Mr. Vaishnaw also engaged with Swiss experts to understand the cutting-edge technologies that can bolster operational efficiency and safety within the Indian Railways system.

This was followed by a meeting with leading railway sector "Small and Medium Enterprises", including Rhomberg Sersa Ag, Selectron, Ucentrics, Autech, and nu Glass.

Another key meeting was with Stadler Rail Management and a visit to their state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in St. Margrethen. Stadler Rail's expertise in producing double-decker multiple-unit trains.

Mr. Vaishnaw also attended the opening dinner hosted by the Board of Trustees of WEF.

The minister made a presentation on the Indian semiconductor ecosystem to Arvind Krishna, the chairman and chief executive officer of IBM.

Andhra Pradesh, under the theme 'Business with Speed and Innovation', is presenting its 1,054-km-long coastline, business-friendly policies, and seven airports, as a unique selling point to global investors. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will engage with top executives from global firms like Unilever, DP World Group, Petroleum National Berhad (Petronas), Google Cloud, PepsiCo, and AstraZeneca.

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy was also present at the Davos WEF meet. "Telangana means business. We are promoting sectors like electric vehicles, semiconductors, pharma, and infrastructure," he said.

Global companies "really want to involve themselves" with India, which is the world's third-largest domestic market, added Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu.

The India Pavilion features eight States seeking investment opportunities from executives of companies worldwide – Kerala, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and West Bengal.

H-1Bs fill critical skills gap in U.S.: Nasscom

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Nasscom on Wednesday said H-1B visas have nothing to do with immigration issues and instead fill critical skills gap in the U.S., as the apex industry body asserted technology will be the "lynchpin" of U.S. economic growth, triggering continued need for 'win-win partnerships' between companies on both sides.

Nasscom vice-president Shivendra Singh slammed the 'myth' that H-1B workers were cheap labour, replace American workers, or depress U.S. salaries, and sought to assuage concerns around any adverse impact of President Donald Trump's latest moves and orders on flow of Indian tech professionals to the U.S.

Mr. Singh told PTI Nasscom does not have any reason to be less optimistic about Indian IT industry's growth story, given India and Indian talent have a very important role in the growth of the U.S. economy. He expressed optimism that the developments in the U.S. would not cloud the outlook for the Indian IT industry.

Nasscom's comments assume significance given the growing unease around Mr. Trump's policies and the impact it could have on export-led $250 billion Indian IT industry, which derives the biggest chunk of its revenue from the U.S. market.

President Trump began his second term with a spate of executive orders on Tuesday and moved quickly to end a decades-old immigration policy of birthright citizenship – that is automatic citizenship for children born in the U.S. to non-citizen parents. Many believe, and worry this could potentially impact children born in the U.S. to H-1B visa holders as well as other categories like green card holders and those on temporary visas.

De-dollarisation threat

Mr. Trump repeated his warning he will impose 100% tariffs on BRICS countries, of which India is a part, if they take any step to replace the U.S. dollar.

Asked how the revoking of birthright citizenship would impact H-1B holders, Mr. Singh expressed his empathy for those likely to be affected but emphasised that immigration policies are the absolute prerogative of a nation.

"I empathise...on challenges it may bring to those who have children during their tenure in the US...but immigration is absolute autonomy of a country - in this case the U.S.," he said.

He stressed H-1B visas were nowhere linked to immigration debate or issue as it is a non-immigrant visa. Mr. Singh drew attention to Indian IT industry's hiring efforts in the U.S.

"Our companies have invested $1.1 billion in the U.S. for local upskilling, and we are working with 2,55,000 employees who have been upskilled and 2.9 million students have been positively impacted.

Not Just in Your Head: How Mental Health Affects the Body

Since his 20s, Rohan had led a moderately active lifestyle, avoided excessive junk food, and had no major health complaints. One would assume he was healthy. However, the persistent stress over a decade from his high-pressure job had taken a toll on him by his 30s, manifesting in ways he hadn't anticipated. Over time, Rohan developed symptoms like frequent headaches, difficulty sleeping, and constant fatigue.

Stress as a Trigger for NCDs

Rohan's most recent health check revealed unexpected results: elevated blood sugar levels, borderline high cholesterol, and slightly raised blood pressure – all early signs of metabolic syndrome. These findings mirrored the silent havoc chronic stress was wreaking on his body.

In India, mental health disorders are a pressing concern, with the World Health Organization estimating a burden of 2,443 disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) per 1,00,000 population. Furthermore, a 2022 survey* revealed that 59% of Indian employees reported experiencing depression, highlighting the pervasive impact of mental health issues in the workplace.

Good health rests on five pillars: balanced nutrition, regular exercise, quality sleep, effective stress management, and mental well-being. Neglecting even one can increase your risk of NCDs.

Dr Lakshmi Venkatraman
Psychiatrist,
Apollo Medical Centre, Kotturpuram, Chennai

Here's a lesser-known truth: Chronic stress and anxiety double the risk of hypertension, cardiovascular disease and diabetes by elevating cortisol (a stress hormone) levels in the body. While cortisol is necessary for normal bodily functions like regulating blood sugars and blood pressure, an excess of it disrupts metabolism, increasing abdominal fat and raising the risk of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

A Comprehensive Approach to Wellness

Traditionally, conversations about being healthy have revolved around nutrition and exercise. While crucial, these are just two of the five pillars of good health. The others – sleep, stress management, and mental health – are equally vital.

Rohan's case underscores the importance of integrating mental health screening into preventive care. Stress and mental health disorders do not merely affect the mind; they have profound physiological consequences. Anxiety can lead to increased heart rate and blood pressure, while sleep disturbances exacerbate metabolic and cardiovascular risks. Chronic mental stress also weakens the immune system, making the body more susceptible to illnesses.

Integrating Mental Health Screening

To effectively address these risks, preventive health screenings must include mental health evaluations alongside physical assessments and tests. Tools like the PHQ-9 (to assess for depression) and GAD-7 (to assess for anxiety) provide valuable insights into an individual's mental state, enabling early interventions. Similarly, the STOP-BANG questionnaire to screen for sleep apnoea is crucial to identify this sleep disorder that can also increase the risk of NCDs. By identifying and managing stress, anxiety, and sleep disorders early, healthcare providers can help prevent the progression of NCDs and mitigate their impact.

Redefining Preventive Healthcare

True preventive healthcare focuses on enhancing the quality of life by addressing all aspects of health. Mental health, stress, and sleep are integral components of overall health and well-being. A holistic approach that evaluates the interconnectedness of the mind and body enables individuals to better manage their health and reduce the risks of chronic conditions.

Preventive care is not just about living longer but about living better. By integrating mental health and sleep assessments into routine screenings, healthcare providers can offer a comprehensive approach to wellness, ensuring that individuals lead healthier and fulfilling lives.

Source:
**Common mental health symptoms among employees in India 2022, A. Minhas (2023)*

Apollo ProHealth PRESENTS
Sincerely, Your Doctor
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE HINDU

A preventive healthcare initiative by **Apollo ProHealth** and **The Hindu**

Have questions for our doctors?
WhatsApp us at 89392 83283
or email us at sincerelyyourdoctor@thehindu.co.in

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan will continue to 'extend support' to people of Kashmir: PM

REUTERS

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that Pakistan would continue to "extend political, moral and diplomatic support to the people of Kashmir till they achieve the right to self-determination as per UN resolutions". He made the remarks while addressing an event in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. PTI

DHAKA

Bangladesh court acquits Khaleda Zia in 10 year-old sabotage case

AP

A court in Bangladesh acquitted BNP Chairperson and former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on Wednesday in a sabotage case filed in the southeastern Cumilla district 10 years ago. The court observed that the case was filed on political grounds and harassment. Last week, Ms. Zia was acquitted in the Orphanage Trust graft case. PTI

TAIPEI

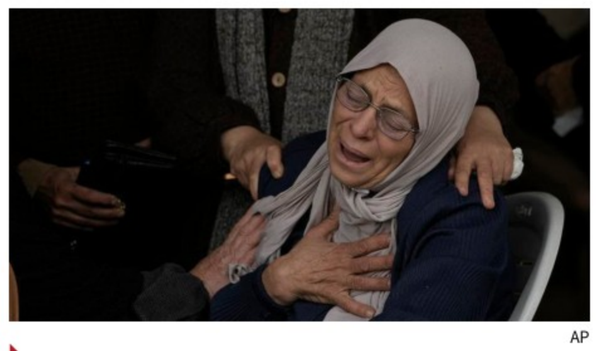
China's Navy gets new-generation frigate to counter U.S. and others

AP

China's Navy commissioned a new-generation frigate to counter the U.S. and other regional powers, saying the ship will "play a vital role in enhancing the overall combat effectiveness" of its forces. The first Type 054B frigate, christened the Luohe, was commissioned on Wednesday in Qingdao, a port city in northern China. AP

JENIN

Ten killed as Israel presses on with its raid in the occupied West Bank



AP

Gunfire and explosions rocked the occupied West Bank's Jenin area on Wednesday, as Israel pressed on for a second day with a raid. The operation, launched just days after fighting halted in Gaza, left 10 Palestinians dead. 20 people from villages around Jenin have been detained since the operation began on Tuesday. AFP

Trump slams bishop who batted for minorities

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday demanded an apology from the Episcopal bishop of Washington after she made a direct appeal to him during a prayer service to have mercy on the LGBTQ+ community and migrant workers who are in the U.S. illegally.

Referencing Mr. Trump's belief that he was saved by God from assassination, the Right Rev. Mariann Budde said, "You have felt the providential hand of a loving God. In the name of our God, I ask you to have mercy upon the people in our country who are scared now."

After he returned to the White House, Mr. Trump said, "I didn't think it was a good service" and "they could do much better." But later, in an overnight post on his social media site, he sharply criticised the "so-called Bishop" as a "Radical Left hard line Trump hater."

"She brought her church into the World of politics in a very ungracious way. She was nasty in tone," said Mr. Trump, a Republican, adding that Ms. Budde did not mention that some migrants have come to the U.S. and killed people.

"Apart from her inappropriate statements, the service was uninspiring. She is not very good at her job!" Mr. Trump said. "She and her church owe the public an apology!"

Mr. Trump has already issued executive orders rolling back transgender rights and toughening immigration policies.

Trump warns of tariffs against EU and 10% rate on China by February

'They treat us very, very badly. So they are going to be in for tariffs,' says the U.S. President about the EU; Trump's charges against Beijing include that of sending fentanyl to Mexico and Canada; China says there are no winners in a trade war

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump pledged on Tuesday to hit the European Union with tariffs, adding that a 10% duty on Chinese imports could also come as soon as February 1.

Mr. Trump, who was speaking to reporters at the White House a day after being sworn in, cited the need to rectify the EU's trade imbalances with the United States while taking aim once again at Beijing over fentanyl trafficking.

"They treat us very, very badly. So they're going to be in for tariffs," Mr. Trump said of the EU. "You can't get fairness unless you do that."

Shock factor: Donald Trump has issued a slew of orders since assuming office as the U.S. President on Monday. AP

A day earlier, Mr. Trump accused the bloc of not importing enough American products, saying he would "straighten that out" by imposing duties or by seeking more oil and gas purchases. Regarding China, Mr. Trump on Tuesday reiterated his threat to impose a 10% tariff, saying it was "based on the fact that they are sending fentanyl to Mexico and Canada."

When asked how soon these tariffs could be enacted, he added: "Probably February 1st is the date we're looking at."

This was the same date he earlier said he could impose 25% tariffs on Canada and Mexico, accusing them of failing to stop illegal immigration and fentanyl trafficking into the United States.

Beijing on Wednesday vowed to defend its "national interests" in response to Mr. Trump's threats. "We have always believed that there are no winners in a trade war or a tariff war," foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said.

Ready to defend

The EU's economy commissioner also vowed this week that the bloc stands ready to defend its interests.

Speaking at an annual meeting of global elites in Davos EU chief Ursula von der Leyen declared that Europe was ready to negotiate with Mr. Trump.

Trump tells Putin to make Ukraine deal 'now' or face tariffs

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump told his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Wednesday to make a deal to end the grinding Ukraine war "now" or face tariff hikes and more sanctions.

"If we don't make a 'deal,' and soon, I have no other choice but to put high levels of Taxes, Tariffs, and Sanctions on anything being sold by Russia to the United States, and various other participating countries," Mr. Trump said on his Truth Social network.

Mr. Trump said he was "not looking to hurt Russia" and "always had a very good relationship with President Putin," a leader for whom he has expressed admiration in the past.

Vladimir Putin

"All of that being said, I'm going to do Russia, whose Economy is failing, and President Putin, a very big FAVOR. Settle now, and STOP this ridiculous War! IT'S ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE."

Prince Harry receives 'full' apology from Murdoch's tabloids

Press Trust of India
LONDON

Britain's Prince Harry on Wednesday settled his legal case against Rupert Murdoch's News Group Newspapers (NGN), publishers of *The Sun* newspaper, which offered a rare "full and unequivocal" apology to the now U.S.-based Duke of Sussex and agreed to pay "substantial damages".

Harry, the younger son of King Charles III, had brought legal action against NGN over allegations of unlawful information gathering by journalists and private investigators between 1996-2011.

"NGN further apologises to the Duke for the impact on him of the extensive coverage and serious intrusion into his private life as well as the private life of Diana, Princess of Wales, his late mother, in particular during his younger years," reads the statement. "We acknowledge and apologise for the distress caused to the Duke, and the damage inflicted on relationships, friendships and family, and have agreed to pay him substantial damages," it adds.

Diversity programmes shut, staff placed on leave in U.S.

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt confirmed that U.S. federal employees working in diversity offices must be put on paid leave by Wednesday evening as the new administration of Donald Trump has ordered the programmes shut.

"Send a notification to all employees of DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility) offices that they are being placed on paid administrative leave effective immediately as the agency takes steps to close/end all DEIA initiatives, offices and programs," said a U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) memo posted on social media platform X.

During his campaign, Trump had alleged that the DEI policies discriminated against white people

The memo from acting OPM director Charles Ezell directed all department and agency heads and acting heads to send workers notice by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

"To every reporter asking about this: I can gladly confirm!" Ms. Leavitt said on X.

"President Trump campaigned on ending the scourge of DEI from our federal government and returning America to a merit based society where people are hired based on their skills, not for the color of their skin," Ms. Leavitt said in a statement published by NBC News.

"This is another win for Americans of all races, religions, and creeds. Promises made, promises kept."

While campaigning, Mr. Trump had vilified diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) policies in the federal government and corporate world, saying they discriminated against white people – men in particular.

Panama complains to UN about Trump's threat, starts audit

Agence France-Presse
PANAMA CITY

Panama has complained to the United Nations over U.S. President Donald Trump's "worrying" threat to seize the Panama Canal, even as it launched an audit of the Hong Kong-linked operator of two ports on the interoceanic waterway.

In a letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the government in Panama City referred to an article of the UN Charter precluding any member from "the threat or use of force" against the territorial integrity or political independence of another.

Mr. Trump, in his inaugural address Monday, repeated his complaint that China was effectively "operating" the Panama Canal through its growing presence around the waterway, which the U.S. handed over at the end of 1999.

Panama's President Jose Raul Mulino hit back that the canal was not a gift from the U.S. during a panel at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Asked on Wednesday about the spat, Beijing denied it had ever "interfered" in the canal.

Sport

PSPB men and RSPB women triumph

NATIONAL TT

Amol Karhadkar
SURAT

Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) and Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) won the team championships of the 86th senior National table tennis here on Wednesday.

PSPB men survived a big scare from RSPB before extending their unbeaten title run to 23 editions, while the Railways women – riding high on Sutirtha Mukherjee's exploits – regained the title after five years by scraping past the fancied PSPB. Both finals ended with identical scores of 3-2.

Sutirtha started the final by overcoming the in-form Yashaswini Ghorpade in straight games and ended it by defeating arch-rival T. Reeth Rishya in a tense five-game encounter. Railways head coach Anindita Chakraborty took a calculated risk by ptting Kaushani Nath as the third player and she delivered by beating Pritha Vartikar.

Triumphant: The victorious RSPB squad. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The men's final saw PSPB starting shakily. With G. Sathiyan waking up with a sore knee, it was up to young sensation Ankur Bhattacharjee to live up to his billing. However, he succumbed to Akash Pal – who exploited Ankur's forehand corner to precision – in a battle of youngsters.

When local boy Harmeet Desai was stunned by Anirban Ghosh, Railways sensed its biggest chance of halting PSPB's caravan. However, Manav Thakkar – the other local boy in PSPB – started the comeback by blocking Jeet Chandra out of the game.

Ankur then overcame Anirban in a high-voltage match before Harmeet made short work of Akahs in the decider.

The results: Team final: Men: PSPB bt RSPB 3-2 (Ankur Bhattacharjee lost to Akash Pal 11-13, 11-5, 6-11, 11-9, 4-11; Harmeet Desai lost to Anirban Ghosh 11-4, 11-7, 10-12, 9-11, 9-11; Manav Thakkar bt Jeet Chandra 16-14, 11-7, 6-11, 10-12, 11-6; Ankur bt Anirban 11-7, 11-9, 9-11, 11-9; Harmeet bt Akash 11-5, 11-4, 11-9).

Women: RSPB bt PSPB 3-2 (Sutirtha Mukherjee bt Yashaswini Ghorpade 11-6, 11-4, 11-3; Anusha Kutumbale lost to T. Reeth Rishya 7-11,7-11, 8-11; Kaushani Nath bt Pritha Vartikar 9-11, 6-11, 11-5, 12-10, 11-6; Anusha lost to Yashaswini 10-12, 7-11, 8-11; Sutirtha bt Reeth 11-9, 11-7, 4-11, 4-11, 11-1).

Barca stages a remarkable comeback at Benfica

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Liverpool beat Lille 2-1 on Tuesday to maintain its perfect record in this season's Champions League and clinch qualification for the last 16, while Barcelona produced a stunning comeback to beat Benfica 5-4 in a classic to secure its own place.

The Anfield side is the only team with a maximum 21 points from seven matches in this new, expanded Champions League and it now knows it will skip next month's playoffs and head straight to the last 16 in March.

The biggest drama on the night, however, came in the rain in Lisbon, where Barcelona trailed 4-2 with 12 minutes of the 90 remaining, but somehow recovered to win 5-4.

Tumultuous celebrations: Raphinha is mobbed by teammates after scoring Barcelona's winner. AP

Greek striker Vangelis Pavlidis scored a hat-trick in the first half-hour for Benfica, including a penalty, while Robert Lewandowski netted from the spot for Barca, which was 3-1 down at the interval.

Raphinha pulled it back to 3-2 when a clearance by the goalkeeper ricocheted back off the Brazilian's head and in, but a Ronald Araujo own goal midway through the second half appeared to have secured the win for the Portuguese side.

However, another Lewandowski penalty on 78 minutes gave Barcelona renewed hope, and Eric Garcia headed in the equaliser on 86 minutes, before Raphinha ran away to settle an incredible game.

The Catalans are second with six wins out of seven, and will finish in the top eight to go straight to the last 16. Benfica, with 10 points, must still sweat to reach the play-off round.

The results: Atalanta 5 (Retegui 12, Pasalic 58, De Ketelaere 63, Lookman 90, Brescianini 90+5) bt Sturm Graz 0; Monaco 1 (Singo 8) bt Aston Villa 0; Slovan Bratislava 1 (Metsoko 85) lost to Stuttgart 3 (Leweling 11, 36, Rieder 87); Club Brugge 0 drew with Juventus 0; Atletico Madrid 2 (Alvarez 52, 90) bt Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Hincapie 45+1); Benfica 4 (Pavlidis 2, 22, 30-pen, Araujo 68-og) lost to Barcelona 5 (Lewandowski 13-pen, 78-pen, Raphinha 64, 90+6, Garcia 87); Liverpool 2 (Salah 34, Elliott 67) bt Lille 1 (David 62); Bologna 2 (Dallinga 71, Iling-Junior 72) bt Borussia Dortmund 1 (Guirassy 15-pen); Red Star Belgrade 2 (Ndiaye 71, Djiga 77) lost to PSV Eindhoven 3 (de Jong 17, 24, Flamingo 43).

NEW LEADER

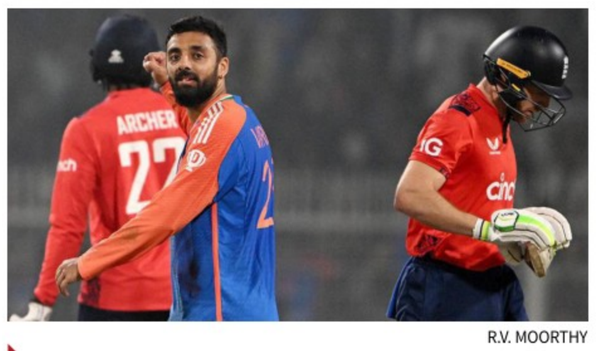
Arshdeep becomes the highest wicket-taker for India in T20Is

R.V. MOORTHY

Left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh (97 scalps) became India's top wicket-taker in T20Is when he dismissed England's Ben Duckett in the opening game in Kolkata on Wednesday. He surpassed Yuzvendra Chahal's tally of 96 victims. Arshdeep achieved the milestone in his 61st match, 19 games fewer than Chahal.

NOT HAPPY

We want to play better and put them under pressure: Buttler



R.V. MOORTHY

Skipper Jos Buttler was disappointed by England's show in the first T20I. "We didn't play the game we wanted to. They bowled well. A few of our players were probably facing the Indian bowlers for the first time. We want to play better, put them under pressure and get a big score that we can defend," he said.

CLEAR VISION

Good to have bowlers who believe they'll perform: Abhishek on Varun

R.V. MOORTHY

Abhishek Sharma heaped praise on Varun Chakaravarthy after his three-wicket haul in the first T20I. "He has been the game-changer for us. Obviously, when you get good wickets all around in T20 formats, you need to have that bowler who you believe will bowl really well. And it's always difficult for other teams to pick him."

STILL AHEAD

Bumrah and Jadeja continue to top Test rankings

FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

India's Jasprit Bumrah continued to remain the No. 1 Test bowler, while Ravindra Jadeja maintained his top spot in the all-rounders' category, in the latest ICC rankings released on Wednesday. Bumrah is currently on a career-best points tally of 908. Pat Cummins (841) and Kagiso Rabada (837) are placed second and third.

Varun and Abhishek revel at the Eden

India's bowlers — led by the wily tweaker — restrict England to 132 before the opener's blistering knock takes the Men in Blue past the finish line with plenty to spare; Buttler's 68 the only positive for the visitor; Shami's international comeback gets delayed as Suryakumar opts to field three spinners

ENGLAND IN INDIA

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Varun Chakaravarthy wove his spin magic at the Eden Gardens – his IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders' backyard – and opener Abhishek Sharma cracked a blistering half-century as India thrashed England by seven wickets in the first of the five-match T20I series here on Wednesday.

After restricting the visitor to a modest 132, the host rushed to the target in 12.5 overs, much to the joy of a packed house.

India was off to a rollicking start, plundering 63 in the PowerPlay despite losing two wickets to Jofra Archer in the fifth over.

Sanju Samson (26), who utilised his gift of timing to hammer 22 off Gus Atkinson's first over, provided the ignition before ill-timing a pull. Skipper Suryakumar Yadav miscued one to the leg side.

The two blows could not deter Abhishek (79, 34b, 5x4, 8x6), who treated Mark Wood with disdain – hammering successive sixes over fine-leg and third-man and a straight four in the sixth over.

The southpaw used his feet well against spinner Adil Rashid. He hoisted Rashid over mid-wicket and long-on and Jamie Overton over fine-leg as he completed his half-century in just 20 deliveries. He fell to Rashid when the target was in sight.

No clue: England's Brook is bamboozled by a Varun special. R.V. MOORTHY

Earlier, Mohammed Shami's wait to return to international cricket got longer as Suryakumar chose to field three spinners amid speculation split over the pacer's form and fitness, and India's tactics.

With plenty of dew on the field and the prospect of the pitch playing slow and the ball skidding, India opted to field.

Arshdeep Singh extracted impressive seam movement and bowled in good areas to strike in quick succession. The third delivery of the match surprised Phil Salt even before he could open his account. Salt's leading edge went miles up in the air before Samson calmly accepted the catch. In Arshdeep's next over, Ben Duckett, looking to play on the onside, only managed to get a leading edge.

Rinku Singh, posted at cover, ran back to take a spectacular high catch and help Arshdeep become the country's top wicket-taker in T20Is, overtaking Yuzvendra Chahal's tally of 96 scalps.

Unperturbed, captain Jos Buttler (68, 44b, 8x4, 2x6) batted aggressively, choosing Hardik Pandya for special treatment, as he added 48 quick runs with Harry Brook.

Varun (three for 23) displayed his control over flight and spin to scalp two in his second over. Brook, who had problems in reading the spinner, played for the turn but inside-edged one onto his pads and the stumps. Liam Livingstone was also bowled in a similar fashion.

Hardik removed Jacob Bethell and Axar Patel claimed the wickets of Overton and Atkinson in consecutive overs. The wicketless Ravi Bishnoi kept it tight to apply more pressure.

The one-man show of Buttler – who showcased his range of shots and placement skills on both sides – ended as he pulled Varun to Nitish Reddy in the 17th over.

All this proved inconsequential once Abhishek took over.

Abhishek... in top gear. R.V. MOORTHY

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND

Phil Salt c Samson b Arshdeep 0 *(3b)*, Ben Duckett c Rinku b Arshdeep 4 *(4b, 1x4)*, Jos Buttler c Nitish b Varun 68 *(44b, 8x4, 2x6)*, Harry Brook b Varun 17 *(14b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Liam Livingstone b Varun 0 *(2b)*, Jacob Bethell c Abhishek b Hardik 7 *(14b)*, Jamie Overton c Nitish b Axar 2 *(4b)*, Gus Atkinson st. Samson b Axar 2 *(13b)*, Jofra Archer c Suryakumar b Hardik 12 *(10b, 1x4)*, Adil Rashid (not out) 8 *(11b, 1x4)*, Mark Wood run out 1 *(1b)*; Extras (b-5, lb-1, w-5) 11; Total (in 20 overs): 132.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Salt, 0.3 overs), 2-17 (Duckett, 2.5), 3-65 (Brook, 7.3), 4-65 (Livingstone, 7.5), 5-83 (Bethell, 11.5), 6-95 (Overton, 13.3), 7-103 (Atkinson, 15.6), 8-109 (Buttler, 16.2), 9-130 (Archer, 19.4).

INDIA BOWLING

Arshdeep 4-0-17-2, Hardik 4-0-42-2, Varun 4-0-23-3, Axar 4-1-22-2, Bishnoi 4-0-22-0.

INDIA

Sanju Samson c Atkinson b Archer 26 *(20b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Abhishek Sharma c Brook b Rashid 79 *(34b, 5x4, 8x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Salt b Archer 0 *(3b)*, Tilak Varma (not out) 19 *(16b, 3x4)*, Hardik Pandya (not out) 3 *(4b)*; Extras (b-4, lb-1, w-1): 6; Total (for three wkts. in 12.5 overs): 133.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-41 (Samson, 4.2), 2-41 (Suryakumar, 4.5), 3-125 (Abhishek, 11.5).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Archer 4-0-21-2, Atkinson 2-0-38-0, Wood 2.5-0-25-0, Rashid 2-0-27-1, Overton 1-0-10-0, Livingstone 1-0-7-0.

Toss: India; **PoM:** Varun.

India won by seven wickets with 43 balls remaining to lead five-match series 1-0.

Second T20I: January 25, Chennai, 7 p.m.

'India will comply with ICC's jersey guidelines'

CHAMPIONS TROPHY

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

Contrary to reports, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has clarified that it will adhere to the guidelines issued by the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the players will wear jerseys with the name of Pakistan as the host of the Champions Trophy, which begins on February 19.

"We will follow all the ICC guidelines and we are absolutely clear about it," Devajit Saikia, the BCCI secretary, told *Sportstar*.

The newly appointed secretary also indicated that the Board did not put forward any requests to the ICC regarding removing the name of the host country from its jersey.

"There were no such things and we will absolutely follow the ICC rules," Saikia added.

He also stated that there has not been any decision on whether India captain Rohit Sharma would travel to Lahore for the captains' photo-shoot before the event.

Tigers and Soorma make it a day to forget for Pipers

HIL

Santadeep Dey
RANCHI

It wasn't a great day for Delhi SG Pipers at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Stadium here on Wednesday as both the women's and men's teams lost in the Hockey India League.

Following an uneventful first quarter in the women's match, Deepika almost found the breakthrough in the 18th minute after Udita's clearance handed the Pipers their first penalty corner. The Indian forward, looking for a deflection off the stick of Elizabeth Neal, found Jennifer Rizzo's right kicker instead.

But it was Tigers' Kathryn Mullan who sounded the boards against the passage of play with an audacious swipe from the top of the circle to beat Solanki Bansari. It became 2-0 as the Irishwoman featured on the scoresheet again. It was a team effort this time as an exceptional run by Vandana Katariya ended with Lalremsiami deftly moving along the baseline before providing an assist.

In the men's fixture, JSW Soorma Hockey Club conveyed a clear message with a 2-3-5 formation.

Harjeet Singh was right on the money when he blindsided Pawan to score his first goal of the edition.

Poor defending by the inexperienced Pipers saw Gurjant Singh size up the 'keeper before slamming the ball home right after resumption in the second quarter.

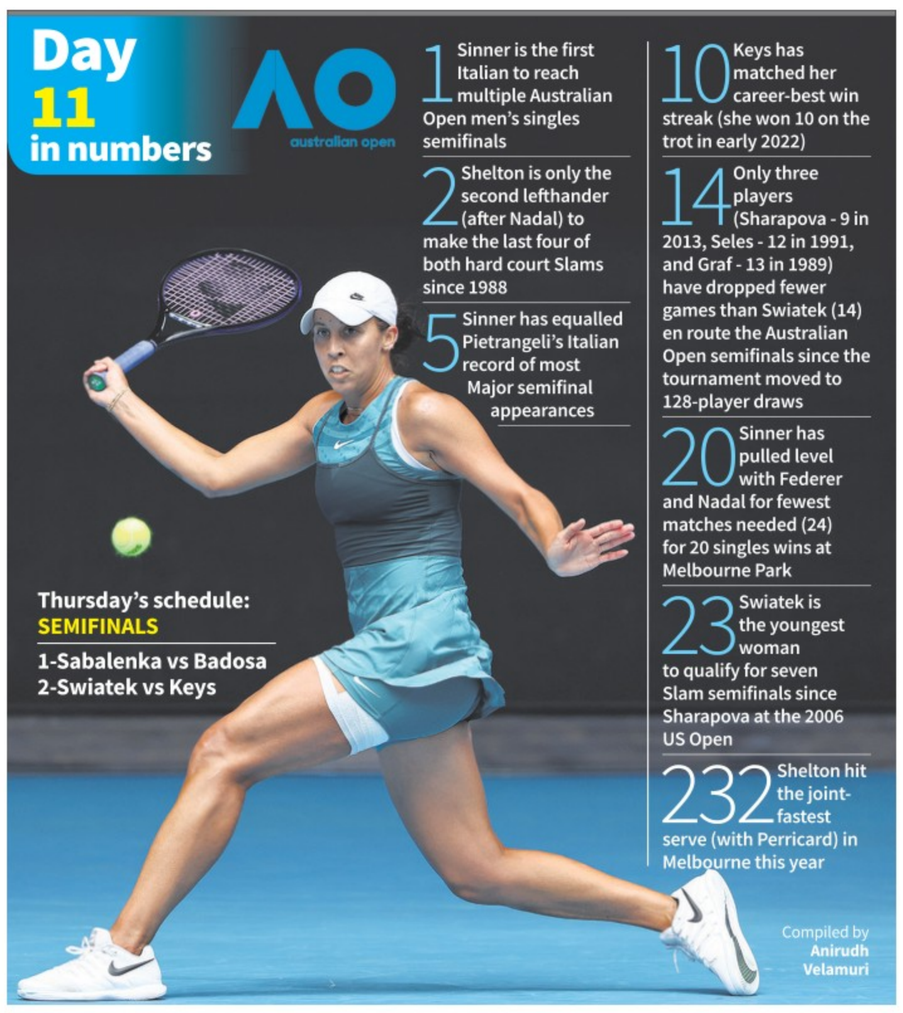
The ploy to replace Pipers custodian Benjamin Rennie with a field player worked as Corey Weyer pulled one back in the dying moments. But it was too late.

The results: Women: Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers 2 (Mullan 21 & 33) bt Delhi SG Pipers 0.

Men: JSW Soorma Hockey Club 2 (Harjeet 9, Gurjant 17) bt Delhi SG Pipers 1 (Weyer 59).

The big roar: Mullan's double won it for Bengal Tigers. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Sinner sets up a semifinal with Shelton; Swiatek to face Keys


Day 11 in numbers
AO australian open
1 Sinner is the first Italian to reach multiple Australian Open men's singles semifinals
2 Shelton is only the second lefthander (after Nadal) to make the last four of both hard court Slams since 1988
5 Sinner has equalled Pietrangeli's Italian record of most Major semifinal appearances
10 Keys has matched her career-best win streak (she won 10 on the trot in early 2022)
14 Only three players (Sharapova - 9 in 2013, Seles - 12 in 1991, and Graf - 13 in 1989) have dropped fewer games than Swiatek (14) en route the Australian Open semifinals since the tournament moved to 128-player draws
20 Sinner has pulled level with Federer and Nadal for fewest matches needed (24) for 20 singles wins at Melbourne Park
23 Swiatek is the youngest woman to qualify for seven Slam semifinals since Sharapova at the 2006 US Open
232 Shelton hit the joint-fastest serve (with Perricard) in Melbourne this year
Thursday's schedule:
SEMIFINALS
1-Sabalenka vs Badosa
2-Swiatek vs Keys
Compiled by Anirudh Velamuri

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Defending champion Jannik Sinner raced into the Australian Open semifinals on Wednesday in imperious fashion after Iga Swiatek was equally ruthless to close on a first Melbourne crown.

Italian World No. 1 Sinner swept aside an outclassed home hope Alex de Minaur 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 to silence the Rod Laver Arena and set up a meeting with 21st seed Ben Shelton.

The 22-year-old American Shelton booked his place in the last four for the first time with a battling 6-4, 7-5, 4-6, 7-6(4) win over unseeded Italian Lorenzo Sonego.

Awesome

Sinner, who had dizzy spells on Monday, was back to his brilliant best against eighth seed De Minaur, who has never beaten Sinner in 10 matches.

De Minaur admitted he had no answers on the night, saying: "He was bloody good tonight."

Left-hander Shelton put in an all-action display to match his best performance at a Major, having reached the US Open semifinals in 2023.

Shelton unleashed the joint-fastest serve of the tournament, a monster ace clocked at 232kph (144mph), and afterwards turned his fire on the post-match televised interviews that the winners do on court.

"I feel like broadcasters should be helping us grow our sport and help these athletes who just won matches on the biggest stage to enjoy one of their biggest moments," he said.

He labelled some of the interviews "embarrassing" and "disrespectful".

Five-time Grand Slam champion Swiatek edged closer to a first Australian Open women's singles crown with an emphatic 6-1, 6-2 victory over American eighth seed Emma Navarro on a gusty Rod Laver Arena. The 23-year-old World No. 2, who is building up a head of steam, plays American 19th seed Madison Keys in the semifinals, which both take place on Thursday.

Keys stormed back from a set down to beat Ukraine's Elina Svitolina 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 and mov into the last four at Melbourne Park for the third time, 10 years after her first.

Swiatek looks ominous. She has yet to lose a set and has dropped only 14 games in her five matches.

Swiatek enjoyed a moment of good fortune at 2-2 in the second set against Navarro.

Keys, who will be 30 next month, is on a 10-match unbeaten streak after lifting the Adelaide title.

THE RESULTS

Quarterfinals: Men: 1-Sinner (Ita) bt 8-De Minaur (Aus) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 21-Shelton (USA) bt Sonego (Ita) 6-4, 7-5, 4-6, 7-6(4). **Women:** 19-Keys (USA) bt 28-Svitolina (Ukr) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; 2-Swiatek (Pol) bt 8-Navarro (USA) 6-1, 6-2.

INBRIEF

Hamilton delights Ferrari faithful at team's test circuit

Lewis Hamilton drove a Ferrari Formula One car for the first time on Wednesday after the seven-time world champion took to the track at the team's test circuit in front of delighted fans. On a foggy morning at the Fiorano test track near Ferrari's Maranello base in northern Italy, Hamilton shot out in a test car wearing the classic red overalls and a distinctive yellow helmet. Groups of Ferrari's passionate fans watched on in the wet weather from a bridge overlooking the track as Hamilton zipped round it.

Sindhu crashes out in the opening round

Vietnam's Thuy Linh Nguyen beat P.V. Sindhu 22-20, 21-12 in the first round of Indonesia Masters badminton in Jakrata on Wednesday. However, Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila progressed to mixed doubles second round even as many Indians crashed out in opening round.

The results (first round): Men: Shi Yu Qi (Chn) bt Ayush Shetty 21-19, 21-19; Jeon Hyeok-jin (Kor) bt Kiran George 21-12, 21-10; Kodai Naraoka (Jpn) bt Priyanshu Rajawat 21-14, 13-21, 21-18. **Women:** Thuy Linh Nguyen (Vie) bt P.V. Sindhu 22-20, 21-12; Tomoka Miyazaki (Jpn) bt Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ramraj 21-17, 21-19; Ratchanok Intanon (Ina) bt Tanya Hemanth 21-14, 21-11. **Mixed doubles:** Tanisha Crasto & Dhruv Kapila bt Adnan Maulana & Indah Cahya Sari Jamil (Ina) 21-18, 21-14; Gregory Mairs & Jenny Mairs (Eng) bt Rohan Kapoor & Ruthvika Shivani Gadde 21-9, 21-13.

Extra race day in Hyderabad on January 28

The Stewards of the Hyderabad Race Club (HRC), have resolved to frame an extra race day on Tuesday, January 28.

Borussia Dortmund sacks struggling coach Sahin

Borussia Dortmund has fired struggling head coach Nuri Sahin after Tuesday's 2-1 Champions League loss at Bologna, saying on Wednesday it had "lost faith" in the young manager.

Bangalore Independents holds BUFC

BUFC was held to a 2-2 draw by Bangalore Independents in the BDFA Super Division football league in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

The results: BUFC 2 (S. Nishanth 15, Abhishek Verma 85) drew with Bangalore Independents 2 (H. Prashanth 60, Magesh Selva 72); MFAR Students Union 4 (T.R. Singh 10, G. Nile 18, M. Dawnga 90+5, 90+6) bt Real Chikkamagaluru 0. FC Bengaluru United 0 drew with BFC 0.

Saneeth and Tanvi advance to the last 16

Top seed D.S. Saneeth defeated Haryana's Manraj Singh 21-14, 20-22, 21-12 in the men's round-of-32 of the Sunrise All-India senior ranking badminton tournament at the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence in Bengaluru. In the women's section, third seed Tanvi Sharma took out Tamil Nadu's P. Prasitha 21-15, 21-14.

RANJI SCHEDULE — SIXTH ROUND

Elite: Group A: Meghalaya vs Odisha (Shillong), Tripura vs Services (Agartala), Maharashtra vs Baroda (Nashik), Mumbai vs Jammu & Kashmir (Mumbai).
Group B: Gujarat vs Uttarakhand (Ahmedabad), Hyderabad vs Himachal Pradesh (Hyderabad), Pondicherry vs Andhra (Puducherry), Rajasthan vs Vidarbha (Jaipur).
Group C: Bengal vs Haryana (Kalyani), Bihar vs Uttar Pradesh (Patna), Karnataka vs Punjab (Bengaluru), Kerala vs Madhya Pradesh (Thiruvananthapuram).
Group D: Assam vs Railways (Guwahati), Jharkhand vs Chhattisgarh (Jamshedpur), Tamil Nadu vs Chandigarh (Salem), Saurashtra vs Delhi (Rajkot).
Plate: Final: Nagaland vs Goa (Sovima).

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: Indonesia Open, Sports 18-3 & Hotstar, 7.30 a.m.
Women's U-19 T20 WC: Hotstar, 8 a.m. & India vs Sri Lanka, 12 p.m.
Ranji Trophy: JioCinema, 9.30 a.m.
Australian Open: Evening session, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1.30 p.m.
Hockey: HIL (Women), DD Sports, Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.15 p.m. ; Men, DD Sports, Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.
Europa League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 11.30 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Friday)

Karnataka and Punjab chase quarterfinal berth

The host, frustrated by bad weather in its opening two encounters, enters the fray high on confidence after its Vijay Hazare Trophy triumph

RANJI TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Karnataka and Punjab will meet in a must-win Ranji Trophy Elite Group C match at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here from Thursday.

The host is placed fourth (12 points) and has had a frustrating time this season, thwarted by bad weather in the first two matches. The visitor is fifth (11) and has suffered three losses to Kerala, Haryana and Bengal.

The tie is thus all-important for both in their quest to finish in the top-two and qualify for the quarterfinals.

On match-eve, Punjab coach Wasim Jaffer was firm in his belief that the pitch was result-oriented. Going by current form, Karnataka appears better placed to take advantage, the presence of Shubman Gill in the opposition ranks notwithstanding.

Getting ready: Karnataka players at a training session on the eve of their clash against Punjab. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Just five days ago, Karnataka won its fifth Vijay Hazare Trophy and the side that is expected to take the field against Punjab will more or less be a facsimile of the limited-overs squad. There may be a few tired bodies, but all of them will be brimming with confidence.

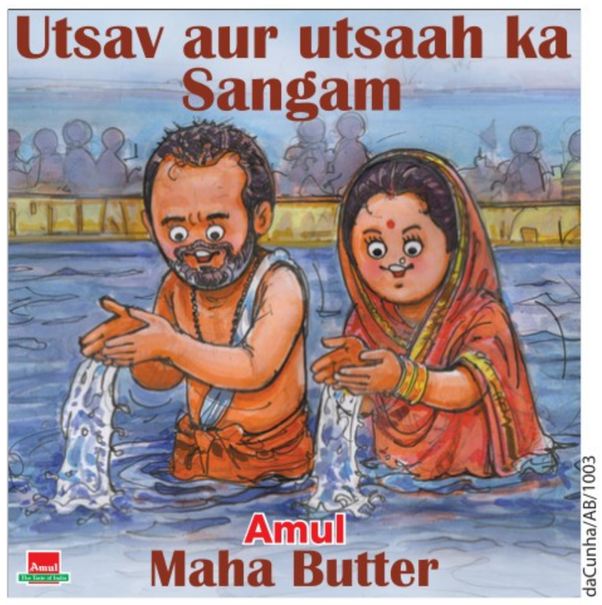
The contest will be the first in red-ball cricket for Karnataka in what appears to be the post-Manish Pandey era. But in R. Smaran and K.V. Aneesh, the team seems to have found talented batting personnel to carry the legacy forward.

Test cricketers Devdutt Padikkal and Prasidh Krishna will add muscle, even as leg-spinning all-rounder Shreyas Gopal and pacer V. Koushik work their magic.

Punjab, on the other hand, exited the Hazare Trophy in the quarters, and did not get out of the group stage in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, of which it was the defending champion.

It is a young side, and there will be no Arshdeep Singh and Abhishek Sharma, both of whom are away on India duty.

But it is a handicap Punjab has had all campaign, for Arshdeep has featured in just two First Class games and Abhishek none.



Praggnanandhaa moves into sole lead

CHESS

Press Trust of India
WIJK AAN ZEE

Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa crashed through the defence of fellow Indian Leon Luke Mendonca to jump into sole lead after the fourth round of the Tata Steel Masters chess tournament here.

Gukesh played true to his instinct but could not get past Alexey Sarana.

P. Harikrishna defeated Max Warmerdam of Holland. Harikrishna has 2.5 points from four games.

The results (fourth round):

Masters: P. Harikrishna (2.5) bt Max Warmerdam (1); Arjun Erigaisi lost to Vladimir Fedoseev (2.5); Fabiano Caruana (2.5) drew with Anish Giri (1.5); R. Praggnanandhaa (2.5) bt Leon Luke Mendonca (0.5).

Wei Yi (2) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (3); Vincent Keymer (2.5) dew with Jorden van Foreest (1.5); Alexey Sarana (2) drew with D. Gukesh (2.5).

Challengers: Divya Deshmukh (1.5) bt Ediz Gurel (2); Nodirbek Yakubboev (1.5) lost to R. Vaishali (2.5); Svane Frederik (2) drew with Nogerbek Kazybek (2); Miaoyi Lu (3) drew with Irina Bulmaga (0.5).

Nguyen Thai Dai Vam (3) drew with Aydin Suleymanli (2); Arthur Pijpers (1) drew with Erwin L'Ami (3); Oro Faustino (1) bt Benjamin Bok (1.5).

Karnataka pacer Koushik reaps rich rewards with 'keep it simple' mantra

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

V. Koushik is Karnataka cricket's Mr. Consistent – both in the way he bowls and the performances he produces.

The 32-year-old sticks to an unrelenting and unwavering off-stump line, gives away very few runs (economy rate of 3.72 in List A and 7.70 in T20s) and accounts for a bagful of wickets.

In the recent Vijay Hazare Trophy triumph, the pacer snared 18 batters at an economy of 4.52, a figure made more impressive by the fact that Karnataka conceded more than 300 thrice.

In fact, he returned with 18 wickets apiece in each of the two previous Hazare Trophy campaigns, at 3.30 runs per over in 2023-24 and at 2.70 in 2022-23.

Koushik. SUDHAKARA JAIN

"I just keep it simple and that's my strength," Koushik said ahead of the Ranji Trophy match against Punjab starting Thursday. "Like how the bowling coaches usually tell: hit the top of off-stump. I keep to that length and make most of the conditions.

"In India, if you are playing in early winter, there will be some help and I try to capitalise. My off-season work ethic is also pretty good, whether I am bowling in the nets or anywhere. I just stick to that length and make the ball talk."

Koushik swears by this method across formats. His First Class bowling average after 21 matches and 87 wickets is an impressive 17.25, and another fine effort versus Punjab - a side against which he took a career-best seven for 41 this time last year - will be a godsend for Karnataka.

"For me, it remains the same [in any format]. I concentrate more on the economy side. If a wicket comes, it will be a bonus."

There is a tinge of disappointment in Koushik that he has never featured in the IPL or come close to National-team selection. But that hasn't stopped him from giving it all for Karnataka.

"It [selection] is not in my hands. More than anything, I love the sport. The joy of playing every day motivates me to perform. That is what is pushing me. But I have been consistently performing, knocking on the doors and asking the question: am I not good enough?"

India prepares for tie against Togo

DAVIS CUP

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Davis Cup World Group play-off tie against Togo to be played on the hard courts at the DLTA Complex on February 1 and 2 may not be that much of a challenge for the host, but Indian tennis is looking to capitalise on the event to strengthen its roots.

To that extent, three bright youngsters Aryan Shah, Chirag Duhan and Yuvan Nandal, have been added to the training squad and will start the preparation at the venue on Thursday with coach Ashutosh Singh.

Of course, Aryan was part of the team for the last tie against Sweden, but could not get nomination this time.

No taking chances

With three singles players in S. Mukund, Ramkumar Ramanathan and Karan Singh in the squad, along with doubles exponents Sriram Balaji and Rithvik Bollipalli, the selectors were not taking any chances against Togo.

"We will utilise the home advantage and home support," said the captain of the team, Rohit Rajpal.

Winning starts for Ankita, Sahaja

TENNIS

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Indians Ankita Raina and Sahaja Yamalapalli recorded victories in the first round of the $100,000 KPB Trust Women's Open tennis tournament at the KSLTA courts here on Wednesday.

Ankita, the highest-ranked Indian, defeated Russian qualifier Daria Kudashova 7-6(2), 7-6(4). Ankita did well to overcome a bout of nausea in the second set. The 32-year-old at times resorted to moon balls to give herself enough time to recover for the next shot. Kudashova erred by settling for long rallies, instead of taking an attacking approach to close out points.

Ankita will have to raise her game a few notches in the next round, when she takes on top seed Tatjana Maria.

Sahaja was impressive in a 6-3, 3-6, 6-0 win over Great Britain's Yuriko Miyazaki. Sahaja (world No. 315) used a powerful serve and crisp groundstrokes to shut out Miyazaki (world No. 182).

Hanging tough: Ankita overcame a bout of nausea and Kudashova. K. MURALI KUMAR

It was a disappointing outing for Vaidehi Chaudhari and Shrivalli Bhamidipaty. Vaidehi fell to defending champion Darja Semenistaja 2-6, 2-6, while Shrivalli was blown away 0-6, 0-6 by eighth-seed Sara Bejlek.

Brenda Fruhvirtova, who clinched the title here in 2023, was forced to retire against Maria Timofeeva. Brenda was down 3-4 in the first set when she threw in the towel due to an injury.

Brenda's sister Linda had a better time of it, going past Brazil's Laura Pigossi 6-2, 7-6(5).

The results: First round: Sahaja Yamalapalli (Ind) bt Yuriko Lily Miyazaki (GBR) 6-3, 3-6, 6-0; Ankita Raina (Ind) bt Daria Kudashova (Rus) 7-6(2), 7-6(4); Tatjana Maria (Ger) bt Petra Marcinko (Cro) 6-4, 7-5; Maria Timofeeva (Rus) bt Brenda Fruhvirtova (Cze) 4-3 (retd.); Sara Bejlek (Cze) bt Shrivalli Bhamidipaty (Ind) 6-0, 6-0; Darja Semenistaja (Lat) bt Vaidehi Chaudhari (Ind) 6-2, 6-2; Linda Fruhvirtova (Cze) bt Laura Pigossi (Bra) 6-2, 7-6(5); Rebecca Marino (Can) bt Riya Bhatia (Ind) 6-1, 6-0.

Bengaluru implodes to hand Odisha a crucial victory

ISL

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

A 10-man Bengaluru FC blew a 2-0 lead to lose 2-3 to Odisha FC in the Indian Super League at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Wednesday.

Diego Mauricio planted two powerful penalties before Jerry Mawihmingthanga bundled in the ball from close range early in the second half to seal the tie.

While BFC remains third (28 points, 17 matches)., the result comes at an inopportune time, extending Gerard Zaragoza's winless run to four games and severely hampering his aim of securing a top-two finish and making the semifinals directly.

Full-back Naorem Roshan had a torrid time, guilty of the backpass that led to Odisha's opener and then handling the ball inside the area to pave the way for the second.

But for nearly half an hour, a victory for Sergio Lobera's men seemed improbable.

Happy bunch: Odisha players celebrate an improbable win over the high-flying BFC. K. MURALI KUMAR

Evergreen Chhetri

In the 10th minute, Edgar Mendez controlled an aerial ball superbly before slotting it home. Soon after, the evergreen Sunil Chhetri hoodwinked four defenders and bulged the net with aplomb.

However, minutes before the half-hour mark, Roshan's reverse ball was pursued by Mauricio, and defender Aleksandar Jovanovic pulled the Brazilian down to thwart the chance.

Referee Pratik Mondal blew the whistle for a penalty and sent the Australian off. The visitor's equaliser followed soon, as the attack-minded Odisha piled on the pressure.

After the break, Chhetri & Co. came out a minute or two before their opponents in what appeared like a statement of intent.

But it was Odisha that dealt the decisive blow before closing down the contest in expert fashion to climb up to sixth (24 points, 17 matches).

The result: Bengaluru FC 2 (Mendez 10, Chhetri 13) lost to Odisha FC 3 (Mauricio 29, 38, Mawihmingthanga 50).